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HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
Office of the Chief of Staff
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22 August 1945

Command and General Staff School
Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

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Attention: Colonel F.M. Barrows, Editor
Military Review.

My dear Barrows:

I am mailing separately by insured parcel post a series of After Action Reports, Maps, Charts, and Overlays pertaining to the action of the XV Corps for the period, 31 July 1944 to 9 May 1945.

The material is grouped by month and in general contains the After Action Report for the month, with maps, charts, etc. in explanation thereof.

I am also inclosing maps which were used in my Chief of Staff Section, XV Corps, to show the progress of the advance from day to day.

The details of the Corps' activities are in the annexes accompanying the After Action Reports, which have already been submitted to the War Department.

The Corps fought a successful Corps defense West of the Vosges in January 1945 and had fine examples of pursuit and encirclement, river crossing, breakthrough, and exploitation. There is sufficient detail for an instructor to use for historical example without reference to the appendices to the After Action Reports referred to above.

I believe that the material I am furnishing you will be of great value to an instructor looking for historical examples.

Sincerely yours,

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PEARSON MENOHER,
Brig. General, G.S.C.,
Chief of Staff.

Incl. #1

Index letter covering all material being forwarded under separate cover pertaining to action of the XV Corps for the period, 31 July 1944 to 9 May 1945.

11348
14 August 1945

SUBJECT: Index

TO : Command and General Staff School, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.
(Attention: Colonel F. M. Barrows)

1. The following is an index of After Action Reports, Maps, Charts, Overlays, and documents pertaining to action of the XV Corps for the period 31 July 1944 to 9 May 1945:

AUGUST

- Action Against Enemy, Reports After, 31 July 1944 to 31 August 1944.
- Correction to Report After Action dated 15 October 1944.
- Correction to Report After Action dated 18 January 1945.
- Graphic Diagram, Advance of 90th Inf. Div. from vicinity Periers to Lemans, August 1-9 1944.
- One copy of Map, CP's in France.
- Commendation to XV Corps from CG Third Army, dated 14 August 1944.
- Commendation to XV Corps from CG Third Army, dated 4 September 1944.
- XV Corps Advance Map, Normandy to Seine River, 1-29 August 1944 (4 copies).

SEPTEMBER

- Action Against Enemy, Reports After, 1-30 September 1944.
- XV Corps Advance Map, Seine River to Moselle River (4 copies).
- XV Corps Advance Map, Capture of Foret de Parroy and of Baccarat (3 copies).
- XV Corps Advance Map, Moselle River to the Vezouse River (4 copies).
- XV Corps Map, CP's in France.
- Letter of Commendation from CG Third Army, dated 3 September 1944.

OCTOBER

- Action Against Enemy, Reports After, 1-31 October 1944.
- XV Corps Advance Map, Capture of Foret de Parroy and of Baccarat (3 copies)
- Terrain Study, Bitche to Kaiserslautern.
- Map, XV Corps CP's in France.
- Terrain Study, Epinal, France, to Bingen, German, 1:250,000

NOVEMBER

Action Against Enemy, Reports After, 1-30 November 1944.
Advance Map, XV Corps in the Breakthrough of the Saverne Gap
and the capture of Strasbourg (2 copies).
Map, XV Corps CP's in France.
XV Corps Advance Map, Forêt de Parrey and Baccarat (2 copies).
Terrain Study, Epinal, France to Bingen, Germany, 18 September 1944.
Map of the Operations of 23 and 24 November 1944.
Map of the Operations of the 4th Armored Div. and the 114th Inf.
Regt., on 29 November 1944.
Map of the XV Corps CP's in France, from 10 July 1944 to 20 March 1945.
Order of the Day No. 1, dated 21 November 1944, from Lt. Gen. Jacob
L. Devers, commanding 6th Army Group.
General Orders No. 114, dated 23 November 1944, Commendation for
Outstanding Achievement, from Lt. Gen. A. M. Patch, commanding
Seventh Army.
Report on the Fight for Strasbourg, by Col. de Langlade of 2d
French Armored Division.
XV Corps Outline Plan, Operation Gallop
Annex 1 - Operation overlay
Annex 2 - (not available)
Annex 3 - Occupation and defense of Bridgehead covering Eastern
Exits of Saverne Pass.
Incl. #1 to Annex 3, Operation overlay.
Field Order #11, Hq. XV Corps, dated 081400A November 1944
Annex #1 to Field Order #11

DECEMBER

Action Against Enemy, Reports After, 1-31 December 1944.
XV Corps Advance Map West of the Vosges Mountains approaching the
German Border, 5 December 1944 to 14 March 1945 (2 copies).
XV Corps Advance Map of Operations in the Breakthrough of the
Saverne Gap and the Capture of Strasbourg, 12 November to
4 December 1944 (2 copies).
Terrain Study, Epinal, France, to Bingen, Germany, 18 September 1944.
Personal letter of appreciation from Maj. Gen. M. S. Eddy, commanding
XII Corps, to Maj. Gen. Haislip, 1st Ind by Gen. Haislip,
dated 28 December 1944.
Letter from Gen. Haislip to Officers and Men of the XV Corps,
quoting the letter of Gen. Marshall, dated 31 December 1944.
Diagrammatic Explanation of Changes in XV Corps Front during the
period 19-25 December 1944 (15 copies).
Map of the XV Corps CP's in France, 10 July 1944 to 20 March 1945.

JANUARY

Action Against Enemy, Reports After, 1-31 January 1945.
Overlay showing Front Line Positions for the period, 31 December
1944 to 3 January 1945.
Overlay showing Front Line Positions for the period, 3 January 1945
to 6 January 1945.
Overlay showing Front Line Positions for the period, 6 January 1945
to 10 January 1945.
Terrain Study, Sarrebrücken-Kaiserslautern, 8 February 1945.

JANUARY (Cont'd)

Map of the Three Front Lines: 4 December, 21 December and 7 February.
Order of the Day No. 1 from 6th Army Group, dated 4 January 1945
to the Troops of 6th Army Group, signed by Lt. Gen. Devers.
Order of the Day No. 3, from 6th Army Group, dated 10 February
1945, to Officers and Men of the Seventh Army.
XV Corps Advance Map, West of the Vosges Mountains Approaching
the German Border, 5 December 1944 to 14 March 1945 (2 copies).

FEBRUARY

Action Against Enemy, Reports After, 1-28 February 1945.
Road Study, Overlay, 1:25,000, 19 February 1945.
XV Corps Advance Map, West of the Vosges Mountains Approaching
the German Border (2 copies).

MARCH

Action Against Enemy, Reports After, 1-31 March 1945.
Aerial Photo No. 4049, 16 March 1945.
Planning Map for Rhine River Crossing, 1:100,000.
Terrain Study, Mainz-Speyer to Aschaffenburg-Buchen, 20 March 1945.
Terrain Study, Bitch-Bliesbruck Northeast to Rhine River,
1:100,000, 5 March 1945.
Road Study, Zone of XV Corps Attack West of Rhine River, Map
GSGS No. 4416, 1:100,000.
Memo, Lessons Learned in Crossing Rhine River by XII Corps, 24
March 1945.
Road Study, Bitch Area.
Terrain Study, Map GSGS No. 4471, 1:50,000
Bridge and Stream Overlay, Map GSGS No. 4471, 1:50,000, 3 December 1944.
XV Corps Outline Plan, Operation "Undertone", Phase Two, 13 March 1945.
Annex No. 1, Opn. Overlay to Accompany Phase Two of Operation
"Undertone".
XV Corps Outline Plan, Operation "Cleaver", 9 March 1945, with
Annex No. 1, Opn Overlay to Accompany Outline Plan "Cleaver".
Annex No. 2 to Accompany XV Corps Outline Plan, Opn "Cleaver".
Map, AAA Dispositions, Rhine River Crossing of XV Corps, Seventh
U.S. Army (2 copies).
Advance Map, XV Corps Through the Siegfried Line to the Rhine
River (2 copies).
Advance of XV Corps, Rhine River to Capture of Nurnberg (2 copies).
Advance of XV Corps, West of Vosges Mountains Approaching the
German Border (2 copies).
Map, XV Corps CP's in France.
Aerial Photo, Bomb Fall Plot, Siegfried Line at Zweibrucken.
Order of the Day, 30 March 1945, Hq. Seventh Army (5 copies).
Commendation from CG 6th Army Group to XV Corps, 27 March 1945.
Map, XV Corps CP's in Germany and Austria.

APRIL

Action Against Enemy, Reports After, 1-30 April 1945.
Town Plan - Nurnberg
Town Plan - Munich

Aerial Photos - 4052, 4041, 4037, 3034, 4032, 4030, 4028.
Map Sheet M-49, Munich, 1:250,000
Terrain Study, Lohr Fulda, Bamberg-Lichtenfels, 1:100,000
Map, Brunn's Plan of Munich.
Map, Advance of XV Corps Across the Danube River and into Central Europe (2 copies).
Map, Advance of XV Corps, Rhine River to Capture of Nurnberg (2 copies).
Map, CP's in Germany (2 copies).
Order of the Day, Commendation by Supreme Allied Commander, 1 May 1945, Hq. Seventh Army (5 copies).
Flag Raising Ceremony of the XV Corps in Adolf Hitler's Place over the city of Nurnberg, 21 April 1945 (2 copies).
Overlay, "Plan for Capture of Nurnberg", Map of Germany, 1:100,000

MAY

Action Against Enemy, Reports After, 1 May 10 MAY
Map, XV Corps Advance Across the Danube River and into Central Europe (2 copies).
Map, Advance of XV Corps from Normandy to Central Europe (2 copies).
Map, XV Corps CP's in Germany and Austria (2 copies).
Order of the Day No. 4, 6th Army Group, 8 May 1945 (5 copies).
Order of the Day, 9 May 1945, Seventh Army (5 copies).
Bulletin No. 69, Hq. Seventh Army, 11 May 1945 (5 copies).
General Orders No. 98, 9 May 1945, Third Army (5 copies).
Memo for C/S XXI Corps on surrender of "Jagdverband 44" (from C/S XV Corps, 5 May 1945).
Incl. #1 to accompany C/S Memo.
Incl. #2
Incl. #3
Details of Surrender
Incl. #4
Incl. #5
Text of Messages from Field Marshal Kesselring to General Eisenhower and from General Eisenhower to Field Marshal Kesselring.
Specifications of Surrender, presented by General Jacob L. Devers, U.S. Army, commanding 6th Army Group, on behalf of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, U.S. Army, Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces, and accepted for General Schulz, Commander in Chief, Army Group "G", Army of the German Reich, by Lt. Gen. Foertsch.
Annex "A"
Letter "Proceedings at Haar, 5 May 1945, in connection with surrender of Army Group "G".
Incl. #1, Transcript of Proceedings.
Incl. #1, Transcript of Proceedings (in German)

Index of Accompanying Packages:

No. 1 - European Road Map, Sheet 60, 1:25,000
Map 1:250,000, Ridge & Stream, vic. Mayennes & Laval
Map-1:1,000,000, Brest-Paris.
Advance Map, 1:250,000, Auranches to LeMans
Advance Map, 1:100,000, Mantes-Gassicourt

No. 2 - Advance Map, 4 December to 20 December 1944, 1:50,000
13 November to 21 November 1944, 1:25,000
12 November to 4 December 1944, 1:50,000

No. 3 - Progress Map Covering Advances of December 1944,
January 1945, February 1945, and March 1945.

No. 4 - Progress Map, 1:100,000 - Covering Advance of XV Corps
from the Rhine River to the Capture of Nurnberg.

Maps in the aforementioned four packages were those actually used
in the Chief of Staff Section, XV Corps, in order to keep a
daily record of the front lines.

Also inclosed is a bound copy of the entire series of "Action Against
Enemy, Reports After", covering the period from 31 July 1944
to 9 May 1945.

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HEADQUARTERS
XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

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Auth: CG XV Corps+
+ Date: 15 Oct 44+
+ Initials: AGF +
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APO 436 US Army
15 October 1944

AG 314.7. (C)

SUBJECT: Report After Combat, XV Corps, US Army, 31 July 1944 to 31 August 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.
(Thru: Commanding General, Seventh Army).

1. Reference is made to letter, Headquarters XV Corps, same subject, 28 September 1944, to which the following changes should be made:

- a. Page 2, paragraph 6, line 7; After "1900" insert "4 August".
- b. Page 12, paragraph 48, line 3: Delete "125", substitute therefore "287"; line 4, delete "Mk VI Tanks.....77", substitute therefore "Mk V & VI Tanks.....172".

c. Page 14 -

- (1) Delete paragraph 59, substitute therefore:
"59. The activities of the Civil Affairs Section (G-5) during the period of this report are covered in Annexes 5A and 5B - Civil Affairs".
- (2) Add: "60. The journals and journal files of the General Staff Sections XV Corps are included as annexes to this report, as follows:

Annex 1	- G-1
Annex 2	- G-2
Annex 3	- CofS
Annex 4	- G-4
Annex 5B	- G-5"

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11 Aug 74
30 April 1975

(3) Add:

"Annexes:

Annex 1	- G-1 Journal and Journal File
Annex 2	- G-2 Journal and Journal File
Annex 3	- CofS Journal and Journal File
Annex 4	- G-4 Journal and Journal File
Annex 5A	- G-5 Report, August 1944.
Annex 5B	- G-5 Journal and Journal File"

2. Annexes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5A and 5B referred to above are forwarded under separate cover.

For the Commanding General

Arch A Fall
ARCH A. FALL,
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.

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HEADQUARTERS
XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

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:Auth: CG XV Corps:
:Date: 18 Jan 45
:Init: *Cva*

AG 319.1 (G)

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APO 436, US Army
18 January 1945

SUBJECT: Correction to Report After Combat, XV Corps, U.S. Army,
31 July 1944 to 31 August 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.
(Thru: Commanding General, Seventh U.S. Army)

1. Paragraph 25, Report After Combat, XV Corps, U.S. Army,
31 July 1944 to 31 August 1944, dated 28 September 1944, is rescinded
and the following substituted therefore:

"25. On 13 August the Commanding General Third Army directed XV Corps to push on slowly in the direction of FALAISE and make contact with Allied forces advancing from the north.(41) This action was being initiated when orders were received rescinding these instructions and directing the Corps to halt on the ORNE. The 5th Armored Division, however, was charged with preventing German use of the roads leading east from ARGENTAN without becoming involved in a serious fight for the town, and with cutting roads leading out of GACE to the east. By 1700, elements of the division were closing in on GACE. On the morning of 13 August the Commanding General XV Corps directed the 2d French Armored Division to break contact south of the FORET D'ECOUVES, move around the east of the forest and continue on ARGENTAN. The 90th Infantry Division was directed to relieve the French south and west of the forest and to occupy the high ground west of the forest between ALENCON and CARROUGES. By dark the French were in front of ARGENTAN and at ECOUCHE and CARROUGES. The 90th Infantry Division was in the position directed. The 79th Infantry Division remained in Corps reserve throughout the day. The Corps command post moved on 13 August from SAVIGNE to a position on the northern outskirts of ALENCON."

2. It is requested that the change indicated above be made in copies of Report After Combat, XV Corps, U.S. Army, 31 July 1944 to 31 August 1944, dated 28 September 1944, now on file in the Adjutant General's Office.

Wade H. Haislip

WADE H. HAISLIP
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

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XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

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+ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ +
+Auth: CG XV Corps+
+Date: 28 Sep 44+
+Initials: WHL+
++++++

AG 319.1 (G)

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PO 436, US Army
28 September 1944

SUBJECT: Report After Combat, XV Corps, U.S. Army, 31 July 1944 to 31 August 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.
(Thru: Commanding General, Seventh U.S. Army)

In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, Change 3, and letter Hq Third US Army, file AG 319.1 (G-5) GFMCC, dated 21 July 1944, subject: "Action Against Enemy, Reports After. (After Action Reports)", the following report after combat of XV Corps, U.S. Army, from 31 July 1944 to 31 August 1944 is submitted:

1. At 1600 on 31 July 1944 XV Corps, Major General Wade H. Haislip, USA, Commanding, became operational per oral orders Commanding General, Third US Army. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, XV Corps, was on that date at BARNEVILLE-SUR-MER, MANCHE, where it had been since its arrival on the Continent on 11 July. The remainder of the Corps troops were concentrated north and east of BARNEVILLE. (1) By the same oral orders which directed XV Corps to become operational, the 83d Infantry Division and the 90th Infantry Division were relieved from attachment to VIII Corps and attached to XV Corps. Both divisions were in bivouac areas near PERIERS. On 1 August the 5th Armored Division, which had not yet been in combat, and the 23d AAA Group (two AAA BN Bns) were attached to XV Corps. The command post moved from the vicinity of BARNEVILLE-SUR-MER to the vicinity of PERIERS on 31 July, opening at the new location at 1430. No units attached to XV Corps were on that date in contact with the enemy.

2. Warning order XV Corps 1000 1 August directed an advance to the southeast as soon as conditions in the zone of VII Corps (then in front of XV Corps) permitted such movement, and directed further that tanks would precede columns and that all types of motor transport, including tanks, would be used to the maximum for transporting infantry. (2) At 2300 1 August the 90th Infantry Division moved from the vicinity of PERIERS with the mission of blocking enemy movement to the west toward AVRANCHES between the SELUNE and SEE RIVERS, and of securing a crossing of the SELUNE RIVER in the vicinity of ST. HILAIRE-DU-HARCOURT. (3)

3. At 1200 2 August the following boundary was established between VII Corps and XV Corps by oral agreement between Corps: CERISY-LA-SALLE (to XV Corps) - (356520) (to XV Corps) - (340482) (to XV Corps) CR at (341475) (to both Corps) - then SW along road to LENCERONNE (278440) -- (road to both Corps). (4) It was planned to advance XV Corps by successive stages following in rear of VII Corps, pending the gradual pinching out of the VII Corps by its movement to the southeast. However, by oral orders of the Commanding General, Third US Army, the 5th Armored Division, then concentrated southwest of PERIERS (5), was directed at 1145 2 August to move without delay in the zone of the VII Corps by roads east of N-300, GC-2 and GC-7 to capture FOUGERES. These orders were later confirmed by a warning order XV Corps in which the 90th Infantry Division was ordered to continue its advance and the 83d Infantry Division to be prepared to move to the vicinity of ST. JAMES. (6)

* Numbers refer to List of References in this report.

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4. At 2015 2 August the Commanding General, Third US Army directed orally that the 5th Armored Division be directed to halt in place(7), clear roads and be prepared to continue its advance at daylight. These instructions were conveyed to the 5th Armored Division orally by G-3 XV Corps and the Division halted, except for CCA which did not receive the instructions and which passed through elements of the VII Corps and advanced to the vicinity of ST. JAMES where it closed at approximately 1430 3 August. During the night 2-3 August the 83d Infantry Division was relieved from attachment to XV Corps and attached to VIII Corps.(8)

5. On 2 August, the Commanding General, 12th Army Group, fearing the possibility of an enemy thrust in the direction: MORTAIN - AVRANCHES, directed the 79th Infantry Division, then in the vicinity of PONTORSON, to move to the southeast and occupy FOUGERES.(9) When these orders were received by the 79th Infantry Division, reconnaissance elements of the 5th Armored Division were already in FOUGERES. These troops were ordered to withdraw to an assembly area in the vicinity of ST. JAMES. The 79th Infantry Division moved during the afternoon 2 August and night 2-3 August to FOUGERES, captured the town, and established outposts around it to the northeast, east, south and southwest, employing all three regiments in the defense. On 3 August the Command Post XV Corps moved from the vicinity of PERIERS to the vicinity of LES CHERIS, east of DUCEY(10), where at 1930 the command post was strafed by from 10 to 15 Focke Wulfe airplanes with two casualties resulting in the 92d Signal Battalion.

6. By oral orders of the Commanding General XV Corps on 3 August, the 79th Infantry Division and 90th Infantry Division, from right to left, assumed the defensive on the line: FOUGERES - MORTAIN and conducted reconnaissance to the south and southwest in their respective areas.(11) On this date the 5th Armored Division closed in an area in the vicinity of ST. JAMES and the 106th Cavalry Group, then in the vicinity of FOUGERES, and consisting of the 106th Cavalry Squadron and the 121st Cavalry Squadron, was attached to XV Corps. At 1900 the Commanding General received orders to report to the Commanding General Third US Army in the vicinity of GAVRAY. There, at 2115, he was directed orally by the Commanding General Third US Army to move XV Corps without delay, capture LAVAL and MAYENNE and secure a crossing of the MAYENNE RIVER between these towns.

7. The Commanding Generals, 79th Infantry Division, 90th Infantry Division, 5th Armored Division, XV Corps Artillery, and other appropriate staff officers and commanders were assembled at the Command Post XV Corps and there at 2300, on return of the Commanding General XV Corps, received oral instructions for the operation.

8. FO 1, XV Corps, confirmed these instructions and directed the advance of the Corps with infantry divisions abreast at 0800 5 August.(12) The 5th Armored Division was directed to march echeloned to the right rear of the Corps to protect the Corps right flank and rear and to be prepared to execute an envelopment when the tactical situation indicated.

9. The 90th Infantry Division organized a task force under the command of Brigadier General William G. Weaver, USA, composed of the 357th Infantry Regiment (motorized), 343d Field Artillery Battalion, 90th Reconnaissance Troops, 712th Tank Battalion, 1 company of the 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Co A 315th Engineer C Battalion, Det 90th Signal Company, Det division staff, 1 Battery AAA, and Det MP Co, with the mission of advancing within the division zone to capture MAYENNE and secure crossings of the MAYENNE RIVER in the vicinity of that town.(13) The 79th Infantry Division marched in 3 combat team columns within its zone with the mission of crossing the river between CHATEAU GONTIER and LAVAL, prepared to envelop the hostile left flank and rear, or to advance to the east by roads south of the zone of action of the 79th Infantry Division.(14)

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 319.1 (G), Sub: "Rpt After Combat, 31 Jul 44 to 31 Aug 44",
dtd 28 Sep 44, Cont'd.

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The MAYENNE RIVER between LAVAL and MAYENNE is a major military obstacle. It has steep banks, averages 175-200 yards in width and 5 feet in depth (15). Before withdrawing east of the river the Germans had destroyed all bridges except one at MAYENNE in the Corps zone and the first battle action of the Corps became, in consequence, the forcing of a well-defended river line.

10. In its advance to the river during the morning of 5 August neither infantry division encountered serious resistance and by noon advance elements of the 90th Infantry Division were on the outskirts of MAYENNE (16). By dark Task Force Weaver had secured crossings and a portion of the town on the east bank of the river (17). Elements of the 106th Cavalry Group had marched in each division zone, meeting only isolated resistance. During the day its advance elements crossed the river at MAYENNE. The remainder of the group crossed next day near CHLANGE on a bridge constructed from materials found locally by an engineer company attached to the group. The 79th Infantry Division encountered tanks in the western portion of LAVAL and it was not until dark on 5 August that the tanks had been disposed of and the part of the city west of the river cleared of the enemy. During the night a bridge was built and the division crossed early on 6 August (18).

11. The advance of the 90th Infantry Division on 5 August had been coordinated with the Commanding General 1st Infantry Division, who permitted Task Force Weaver to cross into the zone of the 1st Infantry Division during 5 August, stating that he did not intend to march for several days. Early on 6 August, however, the 1st Infantry Division was directed by Commanding General VII Corps to move to MAYENNE and relieve elements of the 90th Infantry Division then in the town (19). This relief was begun during the late afternoon of 6 August and upon its completion 7 August the 90th Infantry Division prepared to resume its advance on LE MANS, in compliance with oral orders to the Corps to capture LE MANS (20). Those orders were received by Commanding General from the Commanding General Third US Army during the late afternoon of 5 August.

12. In its advance from the FOUCHERIS - ST. HILAIRE-DU-HARCOURT line XV Corps had units of VIII Corps moving to the south on its west flank and units of VII Corps holding the line near MORTAIN to its left rear. The mission of taking LE MANS required that XV Corps advance 50 miles to the east, through ideal defensive terrain, force a river crossing, and seize a city of 75,000 people which the Germans had had ample time to organize for defense. This operation was to be conducted without hope of assistance on either flank and with the constant threat that German units might attempt to isolate the Corps by an advance either from the north or from the south. The threat from the north was the more serious, in view of the fact that pressure from the north was beginning to force the withdrawal of the Germans to the east and south.

13. Early in the morning of 7 August, Task Force Weaver moved on LE MANS (21), planning to march via the road: ARON - BAIS - SILLE-le-GUILLAUME - LE MANS. At the same time, Task Force Barth (Colonel George B. Barth, 357th Infantry, Commanding) consisting of 357th Inf (less 3d Bn); one plat of Engineers, 345th FA Bn and one TD Co (22) was directed to march on LE MANS via the road: MONSIEURS - EVRON - STE. SUZANNE. Attempting to force its way to the east at ARON, Task Force Weaver was stopped by heavy resistance, withdrew to the west and marched to the southeast via MONSIEURS, entering the LAVAL - LE MANS road and placing it on the right of Task Force Barth. During the day both Task Forces fought their way forward against

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steadily increasing resistance; Task Force Barth forcing its resistance south into the zone of Task Force Weaver which destroyed or captured it. Team work between the two task forces on this day was ~~well coordinated~~ action of the division throughout the day was well coordinated. The 79th Infantry Division completed its crossing of the river during the day, cleared LAVAL (23), and began its advance to the east by roads south of the main LAVAL - LE MANS highway. (24) The 5th Armored Division completed its crossing of the MAYENNE RIVER during the night 6-7 August and by daylight had concentrated east of the river prepared to move to the east via routes to the south of its boundary with the 79th Infantry Division. The 106th Cavalry Group following its crossing of the MAYENNE RIVER was disposed to cover the north flank of the Corps from the vicinity of EVRON. (25)

14. On 6 August the Command Post XV Corps moved from the vicinity of LES CHERIS to the vicinity of ST. OULN-DES-TOITS northwest of LAVAL, where it remained until the morning of 8 August, moving then to vicinity of BLAISEQUET. A tentative location for the command post had been selected at ST. PIERRE-d'CHQUES, but upon the arrival of the forward echelon at that location it was found that the selected area was still occupied by a force of approximately 50 Germans armed with rifles, machine guns and grenades. A detachment of Headquarters Company XV Corps, attempting to clean out this resistance, suffered casualties, including the Provost Marshal XV Corps who was wounded and evacuated.

15. During 7 August, XV Corps converged on LE MANS, the principal resistance in the zone of the 90th Infantry Division being met at ST. JEAN-SUR-LEVE by Task Force Weaver, and at STE. SUZANNE by Task Force Barth, which cleared the road and advanced as far as LA QUEHE. (26) The 359th Infantry, following Task Force Weaver, advanced during the day to ST. JEAN-SUR-LEVE. In the zone of the 79th Infantry Division, enemy resistance was encountered during the day at CHEMERE-LE-ROI, ERULON and LOUE, all of which was taken before dark. By 2100, 7 August, the 313th Infantry was in LE MANS and the 315th Infantry was 5 miles southwest of the town. Elements of the 106th Cavalry Squadron had entered the city during the afternoon but after capturing over 100 prisoners had been forced to withdraw by the fire and counterattacks of superior enemy forces which included tanks.

16. To hasten the fall of the city it was decided to attack it simultaneously from the southeast, west and northwest. FO 2 XV Corps, issued at 072100 8 August 1944, prescribed routes by which the Corps would enter the city on 8 August. (27) In accordance with these orders, LE MANS was occupied by dark on 8 August; the 79th Infantry Division occupying roughly the southern half of the city and the 90th Infantry Division the northern half, while the 5th Armored Division passing to the southeast completed the encirclement to the east and northeast. All units had to fight their way into the town and it was only after considerable street fighting in all parts of the city that LE MANS was taken. The 106th Cavalry Group covered roads into LE MANS from the north and northwest, continuing to protect the north flank of the Corps from the vicinity of COMLIE.

17. On 9 August, the 2d French Armored Division, 35th Infantry Division, and the 80th Infantry Division were attached to XV Corps. At dark on 9 August, the 2d French Armored Division was enroute from the vicinity of ST. JEAN (where it had just completed its concentration following its arrival on the Continent) (28) to a concentration area in the vicinity of VITRE. The 35th Infantry Division was in the line in the vicinity of MORTAIN, and the 80th Infantry Division, which had just landed in France, and had had no previous combat action, was moving by motor from ST. HILAIRE to LE MANS via LAVAL. On this date the Commanding General XV Corps was decorated by the Army Commander with the Bronze Star Medal for the capture of LE MANS.

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18. On 9 August the Commanding General Third Army originally directed the Commanding General XV Corps to change the Corps' direction of advance to the northward capture ALENCON. (29) The Corps plan for carrying out this order provided for an advance east of the SARTHE with armored divisions, closest and leading (in order from right to left, 5th Armored Division - 2d French Armored Division). Maximum use was to be made of the SARTHE to protect the west flank of the Corps in its northward advance. To reach its line of departure the 2d French Armored Division would have had to pass around LE MANS and the 5th Armored Division to the east, a time-consuming movement, or proceed by direct route across the rear of three other divisions of the Corps, a risky and difficult movement. The latter plan was decided upon as time was of the utmost importance. By careful planning and supervision the 2d French Armored Division was thus moved from the vicinity of VIREY to an area southeast of SABLE and thence across the rear of three divisions and the SARTHE north of LE MANS to its line of departure. The 79th Infantry Division with one RCT motorized was to follow the 5th Armored Division and the 90th Infantry Division with one RCT motorized was to follow the 2d French Armored Division. The 106th Cavalry Group was to be shifted from the vicinity of CONLIE to cover the east flank of the Corps from the vicinity of LA FRETTE SUR LOIRE. The 80th Infantry Division was to secure the bridgehead at LE MANS and to protect the left flank and rear of the Corps by holding the road centers at SILLAS-LE-GUILLEME and EVRON.

19. By dusk 9 August the Corps Engineers had constructed two bridges across the SARTHE over which the 2d French Armored Division moved into position during the night 9-10 August and the morning of 10 August. (30) During the afternoon of 9 August and the night of 9-10 August the 5th Armored Division drove the enemy from the selected crossings of the ORNE RIVER within the Corps zone, turning over those crossings in the French zone of action to the 2d French Armored Division before noon on 10 August.

20. In compliance with FO 3 XV Corps and following the plan outlined above, XV Corps attacked at 0800 10 August. (31) Determined enemy resistance was met at the crossings of the ORNE, and at BAILLON and DUCHE, and the day's action was characterized throughout by sharp tank actions in which both sides suffered casualties in personnel and equipment. The 5th Armored Division was subjected to artillery harassing fire from the vicinity of BOHE-TABLE during the afternoon. (32) The attack of the 2d French Armored Division was hampered during the day by congested roads in its zone but by 1900 both divisions were going forward well, followed closely by the partially motorized infantry divisions. By dusk the Corps had reached an east-west line through BRANLON-VER-SARTHE. During the day COB of the 5th Armored Division lost 6 tanks (33) and suffered a total of 40 casualties, of whom 6 were killed. COB's losses were not reported. The French lost 4 armored vehicles. German losses were estimated at 8 (34) armored vehicles destroyed and 200 men killed or captured. The Corps command post moved on 10 August from BAILLOUET to the vicinity of SAVIGNE northeast of LE MANS.

21. The 5th Armored Division advanced against light resistance on 11 August. The French armor suffered tank losses from artillery fire from the vicinity of DOUCILLIS. On information furnished by AG of 8, G-2, SLEF, the Commanding General XV Corps directed that the FORT DE PERSEigne (reported to contain extensive enemy supply installations and the bulk of two first-class enemy divisions) be destroyed by bombing with incendiary oil bombs on 12 August. After approval by Commanding General Third Army the bombing mission was cancelled at higher headquarters based

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upon reports that the forest had been evacuated by the Germans. Later reconnaissance by the 106th Cavalry Group confirmed this report was correct. At the risk of disaster should the Germans still be in the FORET DE PERSIGNIE the Commanding General XV Corps directed the forest be by-passed in order to hasten toward ARGENTAN to cut off the German retreat to the east. Although this decision separated the forward divisions of the Corps by an obstacle about 12 miles wide, later results justified his action.

22. While the remainder of XV Corps was attacking north of LE MANS, the 80th Infantry Division which had concentrated in the vicinity of VALGIES, executed its assigned mission of protecting the left flank and rear of the Corps. (36) In sharp skirmishes at SILE-LE-GUILLEME and north of STE. SUZANNE it forced the withdrawal to the north of German covering forces whose presence in the area was a threat to the LE MANS bridgehead. The 106th Cavalry Group, operating on the right flank and rear of the Corps, furnished protection against an attack from the direction of TREANS, where strong forces of Germans were reported to be concentrating.

23. Early on the morning of 12 August, elements of the 106th Cavalry Group and the 5th Armored Division, which had passed to the east of the FORET DE PERSIGNIE and the FORET D'ECOUVES, were on the outskirts of ARGENTAN (37) where they reported large enemy forces moving toward the east. CCA captured SEES by 1010. CCR was at AUNOU at 1100 and by 1630 CCA was in MONTREE. The cumulative casualties of the 5th Armored Division since 1 August were reported on this date to be 200, of which 53 were from Company "C", 47th Armored Infantry. (38) The 2d French Armored Division in an attempt to bypass the FORET D'ECOUVES moved into SEES where it encountered units of the 5th Armored Division, causing some traffic confusion. The French then moved to the west and northwest marching on CARROUGES and ARGENTAN. One combat command entered the forest from the north, encountering strong resistance from tanks, tank destroyers, and self-propelled artillery. Another combat command attempting to march through the forest from the south was unable to advance. Other elements of the division attempted without success to reach CARROUGES from ALENCON. The division reported 15 tanks destroyed, 800 enemy killed and 1000 prisoners taken on this date. (39)

24. The 90th Infantry Division occupied ALENCON and commanding ground west and southwest of that town during the afternoon of 12 August. The 79th Infantry Division was ordered to the vicinity of LE MELE-SUR-MARTIN in Corps reserve, prepared to move north, northeast or northwest on Corps order. (40)

25. On 13 August, the Commanding General Third Army directed XV Corps to push on slowly in the direction of FALAISE and make contact with the British there. (41) The 5th Armored Division was charged with preventing German use of the roads leading east from ARGENTAN without becoming involved in a serious fight for the town, and with cutting roads leading out of GACE to the east. By 1700, elements of the division were closing in on GACE. On the morning of 13 August the Commanding General XV Corps directed the 2d French Armored Division to break contact south of the FORET D'ECOUVES, move around the east of the forest and continue on ARGENTAN. The 90th Infantry Division was directed to relieve the French south and west of the forest and to occupy the high ground west of the forest between ALENCON and CARROUGES. By dark the French were in front of ARGENTAN and at ECOLE and CARROUGES. The 90th Infantry Division was in the position directed. The 79th Infantry Division remained in Corps reserve throughout the day. The Corps command post moved on 13 August from SAVIGNIE to a position on the northern outskirts of ALENCON.

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26. Early 14 August, approximately 50 enemy tank vehicles attempting to escape toward MORTAGNE moved to the southeast from the FORET D'ECOUVES. During the day these tanks were hunted down by the 79th Infantry Division and most of them destroyed. (42) Artillery fire from the southeast fell into battery positions in the vicinity of the Corps command post. The enemy batteries were not located but it was believed they were guns by-passed in the FORET DE PERSEIGNE. This report could not be confirmed. (43)

27. During the late afternoon of 14 August, the Army Commander at the Corps command post orally directed the XV Corps with half of its divisions to march on DREUX, taking over a mission previously assigned to XX Corps, which was ordered to change direction and march on CHARENTON. The 2d French Armored Division was directed to relieve the 5th Armored Division near ARGENTAN and the 90th Infantry Division was moved north from the ALLENCON area to extend to the east the holding force at ARGENTAN. (44) With routes through ARGENTAN denied the Germans by the action of the 90th Infantry Division and the 2d French Armored Division, and by interdiction fire from the 155mm guns of the Corps artillery (45), it was essential that routes through DREUX be blocked, as the last important escape route to the east passing south of PARIS passed through DREUX. The 79th Infantry Division and the 5th Armored Division were ordered to march rapidly on NOGENT-LE-ROI and DREUX, respectively, prepared to cross the EURE and continue to the SEINE. (46)

28. Both divisions marched early on 15 August and experienced considerable difficulty in traffic conflicts with elements of XX Corps which had continued to march in XV Corps zone despite an agreement to move to the south after passing CHATELAINNEUF. By dark, however, elements of both divisions, meeting only isolated resistance, had passed CHATELAINNEUF and were approaching the EURE. (47) On this date the Corps command post moved to the vicinity of MORTAGNE, leaving a skeleton staff at the old command post to conduct the holding operation at ARGENTAN.

29. The 79th Infantry Division closed in bivouac area west of NOGENT-LE-ROI during the morning of 16 August and remained there during the day after establishing a bridgehead east of the EURE against organized enemy resistance. (48) The 5th Armored Division attacked DREUX, which capitulated at 1730. (49) The 106th Cavalry Group covered the front of the 79th Infantry Division and maintained contact with XX Corps to the south. Elements of the 7th Armored Division of XX Corps remained in the Corps zone east of NOGENT-LE-ROI throughout the day. The Corps command post advanced from MORTAGNE to CHATELAINNEUF.

30. A provisional Corps commanded by the Chief of Staff, Third Army, and consisting of the 90th Infantry Division, 2d French Armored Division, Headquarters 5th TD Gp, 773d Tank Destroyer Battalion, and a group headquarters and four battalions of Corps artillery, was organized on 17 August and ordered to attack ARGENTAN and TRUN on 18 August. (50) On 18 August, however, command of this force passed to the Commanding General V Corps, who assumed command of the operation at 0900. During the night of 17-18 August, XV Corps was ordered to march on MANTES GASSICOURT. (51) By noon of 18 August the 79th Infantry Division had closed in an area northeast of LANGEVES and the 5th Armored Division was concentrated near BREUIL, with elements holding positions along the SEINE west of BONNIERES. Neither division encountered serious resistance. Elements of the 7th Armored Division moved into DREUX on the request of the Commanding General XV Corps and

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covered the west flank of the Corps, placing a task force in the vicinity of ANET during the morning of 20 August. The command post XV Corps was moved to the vicinity of GRESSEY on 19 August.(53)

31. At 2130 19 August, the Commanding General Third Army directed that the infantry division cross the SEINE and establish a bridgehead in the vicinity of MANTES GASSICOURT and that the armored division move northwest between the SEINE and the EURE to prevent crossings of the SEINE from LOUVIERS south to the vicinity of BONNIERES and to prevent movement of barges on the river.(54) One battalion 313th Infantry crossed the SEINE on a narrow dam in torrential rain by 0330 20 August - the first US troops to cross the SEINE(55) - and by dark 20 August the bulk of the 79th Infantry Division was across the river.(56) During 20 August the XIX Corps of the First US Army moved north to the west of the EURE with the mission of capturing LOUVIERS. As this movement protected the left flank of XV Corps the Commanding General XX Corps was notified that troops of XX Corps near ANET were no longer required in the zone of XV Corps.

32. The Corps command post moved to the vicinity of MANGENVILLE on 21 August and remained there until 29 August. XV Corps, with all units present with the Corps, passed to command of First US Army at 0600 24 August. Between 21 August and 26 August, the 79th Infantry Division consolidated its bridgehead and prepared for further advance. The division contained two German divisions for five days, beat off four strong counter-attacks, and finally when it resumed the advance on 27 August with the 30th Division, destroyed the bulk of both divisions. During the same period the 5th Armored Division continued to advance toward LOUVIERS, withdrawing to an area southeast of MANTES on 24 August when the arrival on its left of the XIX Corps and the British XXX Corps made its presence west of MANTES no longer necessary.(57).

33. The advance of the 5th Armored Division between MANTES and LOUVIERS from 20 August to 25 August was bitterly contested by German armor and infantry, dug in and well-provided with antitank weapons. The terrain was unfavorable for tank action, being cut by numerous heavily wooded ravines in which small German groups, defending to the last man, lay in wait with antitank grenades and rockets for the American armor. Forced by pressure from the FALAISE - ARGENTAN area masses of Germans were attempting to gain the crossings of the SEINE at VERNON and east of LOUVIERS before it was too late. When, on 24 August, the crossing at VERNON was blocked by the advance of CCA the German defense to hold the LOUVIERS crossings became desperate, and the fighting increasingly bitter.

34. During this same period the 106th Cavalry Group protected the right flank of the Corps from the vicinity of JUMEAUVILLE, harassing German columns attempting to escape across the SEINE at POSSY. To complete the destruction of German forces in this area, CCR 5th Armored Division was moved to the vicinity of BLYNES on 24 August(58) and by noon of 26 August had cleared the area of the enemy south and west of the SEINE between POSSY and MANTES, giving XV Corps control of the river from POSSY to LOUVIERS.(59) The 106th Cavalry Group which had been continuously in contact with the enemy since 1 August withdrew to the vicinity of THOLLY to refit and conduct motor maintenance. The part played by this unit throughout the campaign is particularly noteworthy. The group accomplished every mission assigned in a superior manner.

35. On 26 August the 30th Infantry Division, XIX Corps, moved into an area in the vicinity of LONGNES and passed to the command of XV Corps. On 27 August the movement of the Second Armored Division into an area west of MANTES began.(60)

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36. On 26 August the Commanding General First Army directed an attack by XV Corps to enlarge the METTES bridgehead. (61) In accordance with this directive the Commanding General XV Corps ordered a limited objective attack for the afternoon of 27 August for the purpose of securing necessary observation for the main attack which was to be delivered on 28 August. (62) The 30th Infantry Division which had completed its concentration during the night 26-27 August crossed the SEINE during the morning of 27 August and relieved elements of the 79th Infantry Division in the vicinity of YEMMY before noon. (63) At 1600 the Corps attacked with the 30th Infantry Division in the right zone and the 79th Infantry Division in the left zone. (64) In advance of about 5 Kilometers against strong resistance had been made on the Corps front by dark. (65)

37. The attack of the Corps was resumed on 28 August and the front line advanced an average of 5 kilometers. (66) Corps and division artillery XIX Corps which had moved into XV Corps zone made 35 battalions of artillery available for devastating artillery fires during the nights 26-27 August and 27-28 August. XV Corps artillery alone fired more than 53,000 rounds in five days. Approximately 2000 Germans were killed by artillery fire on the Corps front between 21 August and 29 August, and those remaining alive were so shaken that over 1000 surrendered to the 79th Infantry Division on its subsequent advance to the north. During the afternoon 28 August one combat command of the 2d Armored Division crossed the SEINE and moved into an assembly area in rear of the left flank of the 79th Infantry Division to block a German division threatening the left flank of the Corps east of the SEINE. (67) The 5th Armored Division passed to command of V Corps on 28 August and 106th Cavalry Group to the command of Third US Army on the same date. (68)

38. The combat command of the 2d Armored Division (reinforced) attacked in conjunction with the 30th Infantry Division and the 79th Infantry Division at 0850 29 August. (The infantry divisions attacked at 0800). By 1200 both infantry divisions were on the Corps objective and the way cleared for the general advance of the American and British forces east of the SEINE. At 1200 command of the three divisions passed to XIX Corps and at 1300 XV Corps (Headquarters and Corps troops) began movement to a bivouac area in the vicinity of CONDE, passing again to Third Army command. On 30 August XV Corps moved, under control of Third Army, to an assembly area near ROZOL-EN-BRIE (Harnon) to await the assignment of divisions to the Corps. Corps troops closed in this area on 31 August.

39. Between 1 August and 31 August 1944, XV Corps conducted the following operations:

- a. Advance south from BAINEVILLE to the SELUNE RIVER and crossing of the SELUNE - 85 miles.
 - b. Defense of the line: FOUGERES - ST. HILAIRE-DU-HARCOURT.
 - c. Advance southeast to the MAYENNE RIVER and capture of LAVAL and MAYENNE - 45 miles.
 - d. Change direction and advance to east to the SARTHE RIVER and capture of LE MANS - 50 miles.
 - e. Change direction and advance to east to the ARGENTAN and operations in the area: ARGENTAN - ARGENTAN - CONTOUCHES - 40 miles.
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- f. Change direction and advance to southeast to the EURE RIVER and capture of DREUX - 75 miles.
- g. Change direction ~~to the north~~ to the SEINE and capture of MANTES GASSIENNE - 15 miles.
- h. Crossing of the SEINE and advance toward the north - 10 miles.

Total advance - 340 miles.

Additional movement southeast to join Third US Army east of the SEINE - 115 miles.

40. In these operations XV Corps made contact with the following German divisions and battle groups or elements thereof:

49 Infantry	116 Panzer
331 Infantry	130 Panzer Lehr
708 Infantry	17 GAF
6 Parachute	18 GAF
9 Panzer	Battle Group Wahl-Kranke
	Battle Group Urbel

Of these, the 708 Infantry, 18 GAF, 17 GAF, and 9 Panzer Divisions were met in full strength, or at nearly full strength. The 116 Panzer and the 130 Panzer Lehr Divisions were represented by at least a Battle Group. The 6 Parachute Division was represented by at least one regiment and miscellaneous division troops. The 49 Infantry Division was represented by elements of one regiment, the fusilier battalion, and stragglers from the British sector on the left flank of the Corps. Prisoners of war were taken from all three regiments of the 331 Infantry Division but the division was not committed in full strength against the Corps.

41. The following is an estimate of losses inflicted on the above divisions:

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>ORIGINAL STRENGTH</u>	<u>CASUALTIES</u>
49 Infantry	9000	250
331 Infantry	9000	500
708 Infantry	8000	5000
6 Parachute	5000	1000
9 Panzer	125000	7000
116 Panzer	9500	3500
130 Panzer Lehr	10000	1500
17 GAF	6000	3000
18 GAF	8500	4000

42. Prisoners of war were taken from the following divisions:

16 Infantry	276 Infantry	1711 Infantry
77 Infantry	319 Infantry	2 Panzer
91 Infantry	326 Infantry	11 Panzer
266 Infantry	343 Infantry	21 Panzer
271 Infantry	352 Infantry	3 Parachute
275 Infantry	363 Infantry	5 Parachute

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1 SS Panzer LEIBSCHAFFER
ADOLPH HITLER
2 SS Panzer DAS REICH
9 SS Panzer Hohenstaufen
10 SS Panzer FRUNDSBERG

12 SS Panzer HITLERJUGEND
17 SS Panzer Grenadier GOETZ
SS (Surrendered) Possible new
SS (Surrendered) divisions
formations

Prisoners of war were taken from the following miscellaneous units:

195 Landesschuetzen Battalion	Heavy Landesschuetzen Regt of Luftwaffe XII
842 AA Battalion	11500 Flak Battalion
30 Reconnaissance Brigade	460 Air Force Security Battalion
341 Assault Gun Battalion	1193 Heavy Artillery Battalion
Parachute Replacement Training Bn	432 Signal Battalion of LXXXI Corps
2 Parachute Replacement Training Bn	429 Marsch Battalion
Turkestanian Battalion	513 Transport Battalion
621 Naval Artillery Battalion	10 SS Panzer Div Replacement Bn GUSTROW
521 Security Battalion	78 Flak Battalion
15 AA Regiment	11600 AA Battalion
199 AA Battalion	Reconnaissance Co of LXXXI Corps
124 Mixed AA Battalion	13200 AA Battalion
553 Field Replacement Bn	564 Transport Battalion
621 Artillery Regiment	7 Army Assault Gun Brigade
1 Artillery Replacement Bn	Battle Group SEEBERGER
315 Engineer (Russian)	454 Flak Battalion
124 AA Battalion	668 Engineer Battalion
68 Army Engineer Battalion	163 Replacement Battalion
465 Marsch Battalion	555 AA Battalion
12 Landesschuetzen Regiment	4 Security Regiment
506 Assault Gun Battalion	AA Field Artillery School No 1
1301 AA Battalion	83 RR Engineer Battalion
Air Force Ground Guard Regiment	146 Ersatz Reconnaissance Bn
13100 Flak Battalion	511 Mobile Battalion
196 Security Regiment	148 Construction Battalion
752 Security Regiment	146 Field Flak Battalion
7 Storm Battalion	66 Security Regiment
1713 Security Company	621 Eastern Artillery Battalion
842 Flak Battalion	3 Storm Battalion
3 Alarm Battalion	

The total PW's taken by XV Corps during August 1944 was 12,656.

43. Losses in units of XV Corps during the period were:

2-1
Killed - 294
Wounded - 1,994
Missing - 199
Captured - 16

44. Decorations awarded by Hq XV Corps: none.

45. Decorations received by Hq XV Corps: Bronze Star, one.

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46. Decorations awarded by divisions XV Corps were:

5th Armored Division - 105 Silver Stars,

79th Infantry Division - 15 Bronze Stars, 21 Silver Stars.

47. A total of 2,628 replacements were received during the month of August.

48. It is estimated that the following German equipment was captured or destroyed by all troops under command of XV Corps during August:

Mt III & IV Tanks.....	125
Mt VI Tanks.....	77
Artillery (75mm and over).....	239
Vehicles, all types.....	696

The above figures are considered conservative, as only one battalion from the Corps Artillery made any report of enemy equipment destroyed by artillery. This battalion alone reported from air OPs 14 tanks, 5 artillery pieces, and 90 vehicles destroyed.

49. On the night of 8 August 1944 request was made on Third Army for the daily requirements of four divisions and upon direction of the Commanding General, XV Corps, five days supply of Class I and Class III supplies was requested from Army to supply these units. A truckhead was established and placed in operation with sufficient supplies. Immediately thereafter, three additional truckheads were established and supplies within a period of seven days. This is a splendid record for the establishment and operation of truckheads in so short a period of time. Truckheads established during August 1944 were as follows: (in many cases supply points were established in hostile territory)

#8 - ST MARTIN DE LANDELLES -	Opened 5 August
#11 - LA BACONNIERE.....	Opened 7 August
#14 - CHEMERE LE ROI.....	Opened 9 August
#16 - SAVIGNE.....	Opened 11 August
#20 - LES MEES.....	Opened 15 August
#23 - LA LOUPE.....	Opened 18 August
#25 - HOUDAN.....	Opened 21 August

50. Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining replacements for major items, especially during the period the Corps advanced north from LE MANS to and beyond ALENCON. For example, the 2d French Armored Division lost 40 medium tanks and the 5th Armored Division lost 21 medium tanks during a three day period, and it was necessary to obtain replacements all the way back from the Communications Zone bases near Omaha and Utah beaches.

51. Toward the end of the operation of establishing the bridgehead across the SEINE near MANTES, the 5th Armored Division was in a very critical condition because the engines in its medium tanks had passed the time limit of efficient operation. A total of 190 engines were required to enable the division to fight effectively and at the time of the division's leaving the Corps only 30 engines were available. Both the 106th Cavalry Group and the 5th Armored Division were also in a very critical condition because of the lack of replacement tracks, especially for light tanks. Third Army did not have access to a supply of these.

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52. On many occasions forward ASPs supplying XV Corps were not sufficiently stocked by Army with some types of ammunition. This resulted in units having to go over 100 miles to the rear to get their basic load replacement. In one instance, the Corps Artillery was given a special mission involving the firing of large tonnage of ammunition across the SEINE and no previous arrangements had been made through ordnance channels to bring the extra load of ammunition forward. As a result, it was necessary for the artillery's organic transportation, assisted by truck companies attached to the Corps, to go back to the Army depots to bring this forward.

53. The map supply for the month of August was extremely hard to control because of the rapid movement of the Corps. Sudden changes in operational directions also made the adequate supply of maps difficult. In many cases, maps of particular areas were not available even at Army depots; this was especially true in the case of 1/25,000 sheets.

54. No shortage of major items has occurred in medical supply; however, there was a shortage of vaccines, especially in triple typhoid vaccine. This difficulty was overcome by having the vaccine flown over from the United Kingdom. At one time the reserve of dried human plasma serum was dangerously low, but all demands were met and a sufficient supply is available. Evacuation hospitals at times were too far back but this condition was corrected by Army when its attention was invited to the long hauls that were necessary to bring casualties from clearing stations to evacuation hospitals.

55. Supply activities of the Corps Signal Battalion were curtailed due to the lack of sufficient organic transportation. Extreme distances back to Army depots made it necessary for wire trucks to operate day and night in order to meet requirements for field wire and cable. Repair activities were not seriously handicapped but certain replacement parts were not available at Army depots, therefore a good percentage of repair work was sent to fourth echelon repair shops. This caused a delay of four to five days in effecting repairs that should normally take less than one day.

56. Although the Allied Air Forces maintained supremacy of the air during the month of August, units of the Corps were frequently attacked by German Air Forces and suffered casualties from air action during the period. In the operations incident to crossing the SEINE in the vicinity of MANTES GASSICOURT enemy aerial activity was stronger than at any other time during the month. During 21 August and 22 August, the 23d AAA Group shot down forty-five German aircraft and probably destroyed fifteen more. During the entire month of August this group accounted for a total of one hundred forty-three, ninety-eight of which were certainly destroyed and forty-five probably destroyed.

57. From the time that contact was broken with VII Corps by the advance of XV Corps on MAYENNE on 6 August until contact was made with XX Corps on the south flank on 11 August (69), XV Corps operated without Allied units on either flank and without units covering its rear. It was essential, therefore, that the Corps march well-closed up and prepared to fight in any direction. This was done habitually. Orders from Third Army were almost without exception oral mission orders, issued directly by the Commanding General Third Army to the Commanding General XV Corps, or transmitted orally by staff officers of Third Army to staff officers of Corps. The rapid advance of the Corps made the maintenance of communications extremely difficult and

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at no time during the campaign were communications entirely satisfactory. At times, officer couriers and other messengers were used as sure means of communication. Liaison airplane service was used by the adjacent Corps. Radio and telephone communication was generally unsatisfactory. Radio link telephone was employed on occasion and supplemented for deficiencies in wire service. Both division and Corps air support parties were employed to the maximum in calling for air support which was, in general, satisfactory. Air reconnaissance was generally unsatisfactory. No reports of reconnaissance missions flown and no photographic prints were received at the Corps command post in time to be of value. Reports of results of requested attack missions usually arrived at the Corps command post from 24 hours to 48 hours after they had been flown.

58. The Commanding General, Third US Army, expressed his commendation of the services of the Corps as follows:

"Please accept for yourself and transmit to the officers and men of your command my sincere appreciation and commendation for the masterly manner in which the Corps has pressed relentlessly forward, executed difficult changes of direction, and taken calculated risks with the utmost daring. The whole performance on the part of yourself, and your officers and men, has been very superior."

To this commendation the Commanding General, XV Corps, added the following:

"You have done a fine job. You have whipped the German wherever you have met him. You have strewn the country-side with the wreckage of his equipment. You have captured thousands of prisoners. With the experience gained in this campaign you will handle whatever lies ahead of us with confidence and ease. My heart-felt thanks and best wishes to you all."

59. G-3 Journal, G-3 Journal File and list of source references therein, are enclosed.

Wade H. Haislip
WADE H. HAISLIP
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

2 Inclosures:

- Incl 1 - Footnotes to Summary of Operations, XV Corps, 31 July-31 August 1944.
- Incl 2 - G-3 Journals, number 1 through 31 incl., August 1944.

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Footnotes to Summary of Operations, XV Corps,
31 July - 31 August 1944.

- (1) Overlay - Warning Order XV Corps 011000 Aug (Journal 1-3 Aug, Entry 39).
- (2) Warning Order XV Corps 011000 Aug (Journal 1-3 Aug, Entry 3).
- (3) FO #17, Hq 90th Inf Div, 012300B Aug 44 (Journal 1-3 Aug, Entry 26).
- (4) Memo for C/S, XV Corps, 1 Aug 1944 (Journal 1-3 Aug, Entry 15).
- (5) Memo For C/S, XV Corps, 1 Aug 1944 (Journal 1-3 Aug, Entry 14).
- (6) Warning Order XV Corps, 2 Aug 1944 (Journal 1-3 Aug, Entry 47).
- (7) Memo to CG, Volcano, 2 Aug 1944 (Journal 1-3 Aug, Entry 62).
- (8) Memo for Col Allan, AC of S G-3, 3 Aug 1944 (Journal 1-3 Aug, Entry 98).
- (9) TTX to CG XV Corps, CG 5th Armd Div, CG 79th Inf Div (Jour 1-3 Aug, Entry 75).
- (10) Movement Order, Ofc of Hq Comdt, XV Corps, 2 Aug 1944 (Jour 1-3 Aug, Entry 94).
- (11) Memo for CG Third US Army, from AC of S G-3, XV Corps (Jour 4 Aug, Entry 30).
Memo for C/S XV Corps, from AC of S G-3, XV Corps (Journal 4 Aug, Entry 30).
- (12) FO #1 XV Corps, 050145B Aug (FO File).
- (13) Memo to G-3 Hq 90th Inf Div, 4 Aug 1944 (Journal, 4 Aug, Entry 18).
- (14) FO #1 XV Corps, 050145B Aug (FO File).
- (15) Records of Engineer Section XV Corps (Engr Int Dossiers).
- (16) G-2 Isua No. 5, XV Corps, 051800 (Journal 5 Aug, Entry 89).
- (17) Sitrep 14, 90th Inf Div, 052400B Aug (Journal 6 Aug, Entry 23).
- (18) Periodic Report No. 6, XV Corps, 061200B Aug-071200B Aug (Jour 6-7 Aug, Entry 126).
- (19) TTX from CG XV Corps to CG 90th Div, 061045B Aug 44 (Journal 6 Aug, Entry 45).
- (20) Mission Order headed 90th Inf Div, 061030B Aug 44 (Journal 6 Aug, Entry 55).
- (21) Sitrep No 22, Third US Army, 070001-070600B Aug (Journal 6-7 Aug, Entry 101).
- (22) Sitrep No 17, 90th Inf Div, as of 061800B Aug 44 (Journal 6-7 Aug, Entry 9).
- (23) G-3 Periodic Report No 6, XV Corps, 061200B Aug-071200B Aug (Journal 6-7, Entry 126).
- (24) G-3 Periodic Report No 6, XV Corps, 061200B Aug-071200B Aug (Journal 6-7, Entry 126).

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- (25) G-3 Periodic Report No. 6, XV Corps, 061200B (Journal 8 Aug, Entry 126).
- (26) Memo to: G-3, C of S Dated 8 Aug, Entry X).
- (27) FO #2 XV Corps, 072100B Aug 1944 (FO File).
- (28) Letter Instructions to CG 2d Fr Armd Div, 081515 Aug (Jour 9 Aug, Entry 28).
- (29) Memo from C/S XV Corps, 091130 Aug (Journal 9 Aug, Entry 108).
- (30) Engineer Report No. 8, 091800-092400 (Journal 10 Aug, Entry 2).
- Location of bridge at ST PAVICE and NEUVILLE-SUR-SARTHE. Engineer Report (Unnumbered) (Journal 9 Aug, Entry 127).
- (31) FO #3 XV Corps, 091730 Aug (Journal 9 Aug, Entry 142).
- (32) Sitrep No. 36 XV Corps, 101800B (Journal 10 Aug, Entry 81).
- (33) Verbal report Dep C/S to G-3, 101930B.
- (34) Sitrep No. 37 XV Corps. 102400B (Journal 11 Aug, Entry 1).
- (35) Msg fr 106 Cav Sq, 140750B (Journal 14 Aug, Entry 45). A more complete report on installations in the FORET DE PERSEIGNE was delivered orally by a 106th In O to G-3 at 141215B.
- (36) Memo to CG, 80th Inf Div, 091930B (Journal 9 Aug, Entry 118). Note: 80th Inf Div, from 9 Aug on, was under XX Corps. See Sitrep No. 31, Third US Army, 091200B (Journal 11 Aug, Entry 52).
- (37) Note: At 131220B report OCA at S edge ARGENTIN.
- (38) Informal report of 5th Armd Div G-1 to Div G-3. Noted in 5th Armd Div G-3 Journal of 12 Aug 44.
- (39) Verbal report of 2 FLD In O (Journal 13 Aug, Entry 52).
- (40) (Journal 12 Aug, Entry 136). See also Sitrep No. 51, XV Corps, 141200B (Journal 14 Aug, Entry 65), reporting the division at LE MELE SUR SARTHE.
- (41) Msg fr C/S, Third US Army, 120045B (rec'd 130030B) (Journal 13 Aug, Entry 8; confirmation Journal 14 Aug, Entry 51).
- (42) Msg fr G-3 79th Inf Div, 141115B, reported 15 tanks discovered and brought under fire. No report on number destroyed. (Journal 14 Aug, Entry 49). Msg rec'd 141355B reports 79th Inf Div patrols found 4 or five tanks destroyed by air. (Journal 14 Aug, Entry 53). See 79th Inf Div msg to G-3 141300B (Jour 14 Aug, Entry 62).
- (43) Unlikely that guns were in FORET DE PERSEIGNE. See report 106th Cav Sq In O, 14 Aug, in which he stated that evidence indicated the enemy had pulled out three days before.

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Incl No. 1 to Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 319.1 (G), Sub: "Rpt After Combat, 31 Jul 44 to 31 Aug 44", dtd 28 Sep 44, Cont'd.

- (44) Notes by In O on briefing at Third US Army. (Jour 14 Aug, Entry after 117, unnumbered).
- (45) 562 rounds were fired on 14th & 15th Aug. (Entry Sec Journal, 15 Aug).
- (46) FO #4, XV Corps, 142330B (Journal 15 Aug, Entry 4). Neither DREUX nor NOGENT-LE-ROI are mentioned as objectives in this order. Objective is line of the SEINE between MEULAN and VERNON. DREUX is specified in Third US Army Directive. (Journal 15 Aug, Entry 38).
- (47) Radio msg to Third US Army, 15 Aug 1944 (Journal 15 Aug, Entry 62).
- (48) Sitrep No. 59, XV Corps, 161200B (Journal 16 Aug, Entry A-8).
Sitrep No. 60, XV Corps, 161800B (Journal 16 Aug, Entry A-30).
- (49) Sitrep No. 60, XV Corps, 161800 (Journal 16 Aug, Entry A-30).
- (50) Ltr Third US Army, 16 Aug 1944 (Journal 18 Aug, Entry 4). Opns Order No. 1, Prov Corps, 17 Aug 1944. (Journal 17 Aug, Entry 47).
- (51) FO #5, XV Corps, 170930B (Journal 18 Aug, Entry 19).
- (52) Note: Time of advance scheduled for 0800 was put forward to 1200 - G-3 Periodic Report No. 16, XV Corps, 181400B (Journal 18 Aug, Entry A-2).
- (53) Sitrep No. 69, XV Corps, 182400B (Journal 19 Aug, Entry A-2).
- (54) TMX Third US Army, 191830B (Journal 19 Aug, Entry 64).
- (55) Sitrep No. 74, XV Corps, 200600B (Journal 20 Aug, Entry A-5).
- (56) Sitrep No. 76, XV Corps, 201800B (Journal 20 Aug, Entry A-40).
- (57) Opns Inst 6, 241200B (Journal 24 Aug, Entry 26), CP moved evening of the 24th, TMX fr 5th AD 242000B (Journal 25 Aug, Entry 2). In the early morning of the 25th all elems of 5th AD (except 85th Ren) were enroute south. TMX fr 5th AD 250125B, (Journal 25 Aug, Entry 17).
- (58) Memo to CG 5th Arm Div, 24 Aug 1944 (Journal 24 Aug, Entry 61).
- (59) Msg fr 5th AD, 261715B. CCR completed mission by 1500. (Journal 26 Aug, Entry 57).
- (60) Tp conversation, G-3 XV Corps and G-3 XIX Corps (Journal 27 Aug, Entry 73).
- (61) Corps FO #7 ordering this attack is dated 261730B.
- (62) FO #7, XV Corps, 261730B (File of Field Orders).
- (63) Msg fr 79th Inf Div, 271150B (Journal 27 Aug, Entry 24).
- (64) FO #31, 30th Inf Div, 271150B (Journal 27 Aug, Entry 1).

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- (65) Msg fr G-3, 79th Inf Div (Journal 27 Aug, Entry 74).
- (66) Sitrep No. 108, XV Corps, 281800B. (Journal 28 Aug, Entry 1-35).
- (67) FC #17, 2d Armd Div, 290200B. (Journal 28 Aug, Entry 76). Tp report to First US Army, 28 Aug 1944. (Journal 28 Aug, Entry 83).
- (68) Same order transferred XV Corps to Third US Army. FUSA Ltr 28 Aug (Journal 29 Aug, Entry 4).
- (69) (See G-3 Per. Rpt No. 10, XV Corps, 121300B).

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XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

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+Auth: CG XV Corps +
+Date: 13 Nov 44 +
+Initials: *JSM* +
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AP0 436, US Army
13 November 1944

AG 314.7 (G)

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After

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TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.
(Thru: Commanding General, Seventh Army)

In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-1.5, Change 3, and letter, Hq Third US Army, file AG 319.1 (G-3) GNIOS, dated 21 July 1944, subject: "Action Against Enemy, Reports After (After Action Reports)", the following report covering the operations of XV Corps during the period 1 September - 30 September 1944, both dates inclusive, is submitted:

1. On 1 September 1944, XV Corps, consisting of Corps Headquarters and Corps troops only, was concentrated in the vicinity of ROZAY-EN-BRIE, awaiting the assignment of divisions and additional Corps troops. Until 8 September, Corps Headquarters and Corps troops remained in the ROZAY area engaged in the maintenance of vehicles and equipment and in the rehabilitation of personnel. (1)*

2. On 5 September Third US Army issued an operational directive giving the mission of the Army and of its component Corps. (2) By this directive XV Corps was ordered, upon their release by First US Army, to move the 2d French Armored Division, then in the vicinity of PARIS, the 79th Infantry Division, then in Belgium, and Corps troops, to an area southeast of TROYES-SUR-SEINE, for the purpose of protecting the south flank of Third Army from MONTARGIS to the east, relieving elements of XII Corps then on the right of the Army and charged with this mission. Inasmuch as the subsequent operations of XV Corps were based on the program of XII Corps on the left of XV Corps, it should be noted that the mission of XII Corps was to seize NANCY and secure a bridgehead east of the MOSELLE RIVER, as well as to protect the south flank of the Army until relieved by XV Corps.

3. The German 16th Division was known to be southeast of CHATILLON-SUR-SEINE; EPINAL was reported to be strongly organized and defended; and Third Army reported the probable presence of the 3d Panzer Grenadier Division west of the MOSELLE. Enemy forces encountered in small groups at towns and road junctions along the line; CHARLES - NEUFCHATEAU - CHAMONT - CHATILLON indicated a continuing threat to the security of the right flank of XII Corps. (3)

4. During the period 1-8 September, liaison had been maintained with the 2d French Armored Division and the 79th Infantry Division and plans had been made providing for their movement to the XV Corps concentration area. Third Army informed Headquarters XV Corps on 7 September that the 79th Infantry Division would pass to Corps control at the junction of Highways N31 and N44, about 5 miles east of RHEIMS, upon its arrival at that point from BELGIUM (a move of approximately 170 miles).

(4) In view of the fact that the Army plan contemplated the advance of XV Corps to the east when the assembly of the Corps had been completed, the Commanding General, XV Corps, directed that the 79th Infantry Division move from

*Refer to number of references, Incl 1 to this report.

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its assembly area near RHEIMS to the vicinity of JOINVILLE-EN-VALLÉE. Instructions No. 13, XV Corps, issued on 6 September, directed the division to relieve, with one RCT, elements of the 35th Infantry Division holding a bridgehead east of the MARNE in the vicinity of JOINVILLE, the remainder of the division to move to the Corps' concentration area southeast of TROYES. (5) Before this latter movement was completed it was decided to concentrate the entire division in the JOINVILLE area in order to save one day's movement (6), and movement orders issued by XV Corps on 7 September so directed. (7)

5. The 2d French Armored Division on 6 September was directed to move (upon its release by First Army) to an area southeast of TROYES, where it was to cover the concentration of the remainder of the Corps and protect the right flank of the Third Army between MONTARGIS and the MARNE, relieving the 35th Infantry Division of this responsibility. At 0900 8 September, when the 2d French Armored Division passed to control of XV Corps the division was already enroute to its new area. (8) The 79th Infantry Division, less CT 313, had closed in an area at the turnover point east of RHEIMS by 2100 7 September. At midnight, in 106 2½-ton trucks and 85 trailers furnished by XV Corps Artillery, RCT 315 began to move from the concentration area to the vicinity of JOINVILLE-EN-VALLÉE (9) and on the following day completed the relief of elements of the 35th Infantry Division near JOINVILLE. The 314th RCT bivouaced southeast of JOINVILLE on 8 September and established a line of road blocks and instituted reconnaissance to the east and south. (10) By 9 September the 313th RCT was enroute from RHEIMS to its assigned bivouac area near POISSONS. (11) The 79th Infantry Division completed its concentration in the vicinity of JOINVILLE on 10 September.

6. The 2d French Armored Division, moving east on the Corps south flank cleared NOGENT on 9 September (12), and less CCV, closed in the vicinity of ARCONVILLE on that date. CCD's mission was to protect the south flank of XV Corps and CCL was charged with protecting the Corps' concentration area towards the east and south. The remaining combat command of the division, CCV, was directed to relieve elements of the 106th Cavalry Group on the line: AUXERRE - BRICON, and on the morning of 9 September moved south to VILLENEUVE to execute this mission. (13)

7. The 106th Cavalry Group, composed of the 106th and 121st Squadrons, returned to control of XV Corps on 10 September, and continued the mission previously assigned it by XII Corps of screening the south flank of Army from AUXERRE to NEUFCHATEAU. On the same day orders were issued by XV Corps relieving the Group of responsibility for protection of the Corps' south flank west of BRICON. (14)

8. Field Order 8, XV Corps, 10 September, confirmed orders given division commanders orally on 9 September and directed an advance at 0800, 11 September, to secure the west bank of the MOSELLE RIVER between EPINAL and CHARLES, with the continued mission of protecting the right flank of Third Army from MONTARGIS to the east. For the operation, the 693d FA Bn, 242d FA Bn, Btry "A", 3d FA Obsn Bn, were attached to the 79th Infantry Division; and the 276th Armd FA Bn and 250th FA Bn were attached to the 2d French Armored Division. (15) One RCT of the 79th Infantry Division was to be committed on Corps order only. The scheme of maneuver provided for the advance to the east by the 79th Infantry Division in three columns over two routes by the 314th RCT motorized. This combat team was directed to seize CHARLES without delay, bypassing to the north of the position to the right of its progress. Because supply requirements made necessary the temporary absence of 48 of the division's 2½-ton trucks it was not possible for the division to motorize

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combat teams from means within the division. It was, therefore, necessary to immobilize two battalions of Corps artillery near ~~REYEN-BRIE~~ in order to obtain trucks for this purpose. A second RCT was motorized by mounting it on all available vehicles of the units of the Corps Artillery attached to the 79th Infantry Division. The third RCT was directed to begin its march on foot. The 2d French Armored Division was directed to advance southeast, echeloned by combat commands to the right rear, thus protecting the south flank of the Corps and Army. The 106th Cavalry Group was relieved of its mission on the south flank and was given the mission of covering the advance of the Corps within the Corps zone and also of providing for the security of American and Allied internees at VITTEJ when that town should be captured. (16)

9. At 0800, 11 September, the 79th Infantry Division marched to seize CHARLES and to establish a crossing of the MOSELLE in that vicinity. The 2d French Armored Division marched at 0700, with CCI leading in two columns to secure the west bank of the MOSELLE RIVER north of EPINAL. CCD was ordered to occupy CHATILLON and CHATEAU VILLAIN, and CCV was alerted for movement to the vicinity of BOISNEVILLE. At this time the bulk of the Corps troops were enroute to the Corps' new concentration area west of JOINVILLE. Light resistance only was encountered during the morning of September 11. (17) Liaison was established on this date between CCV, 2d French Armored Division, and 1st French Infantry Division, Seventh Army, by an officer of the latter division who arrived at SOLEBIRON at 0800. (18)

10. First to reach their objective were elements of the 106th Cavalry Squadron, which arrived on the outskirts of CHARLES at 1700, 11 September. (19) They were followed two and a half hours later by CT 314, whose 1st Battalion received heavy small-arms and machine-gun fire from the outskirts of the city, and artillery fire from east of the MOSELLE. Although hampered by this fire, the regiment proceeded to close and regroup during the remainder of the night. Plans were made to attack the next day. At 1600, 12 September, the 314th RCT attacked CHARLES, which was still strongly defended by elements of the German 225th Infantry. This was the first contact of the 79th Infantry Division with the German 16th Infantry Division. In the face of heavy fire from all types of weapons, including artillery, the 1st Battalion drove steadily forward into the city. As this battalion advanced, the 3d Battalion worked to the southwest, occupied a position on the high ground overlooking CHARLES, and supported by fire the attack of the 1st Battalion. Notwithstanding the enemy's determined defense, CHARLES was captured within two hours time. The one remaining bridge over the MOSELLE was blown by the Germans as the 1st Battalion approached it. In spite of this, the entire battalion by midnight had crossed the river by a ford adjacent to the bridge on the north and established a battalion bridgehead east of the MOSELLE. (20)

11. In the meantime, after a 22 mile foot march, CT 315 had closed just west of NEUFCHATEAU on the night of 11 September. An attempt to advance further east was met by stubborn opposition, from elements of the German 223d Infantry of the 16th Infantry Division, within the town. Small arms, automatic weapons and 20mm guns were brought to bear upon the combat team, which halted and completed plans to seize the town the following day. On the morning of 12 September, CT 315 attacked NEUFCHATEAU employing two battalions and advancing from the north, south and west. Companies "A" and "B" advanced from the north and south, while the 2d Battalion advanced from the west. By 1230, 12 September the western half of the town was taken and at 2100 all of NEUFCHATEAU was cleared. Early in this action,

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an enemy truck column, attempting to escape from the town, was dispersed by artillery fire, and during the day 13 September 50 non-commissioned officers, 420 enlisted men, 50 vehicles and were surrendered to the 315th Infantry. During the night 12-13 September the 315th Infantry conducted reconnaissance to the southeast into the FORET DE BEREYS, against strong opposition.

12. CT 313, having de-trucked from Corps Artillery vehicles near BIEHERRY on 11 September, continued the march on foot and closed north of POUSSAY, its objective, during the morning of 12 September. The German force, consisting of elements of the 221st Infantry of the 16th Infantry Division, until driven from the town by an attack of the 313th Infantry to the south during the night 12-13 September, fought against that regiment with weapons of every type, and during the morning of 13 September reentered POUSSAY when a change in plan by the 313th Infantry resulted in the evacuation of the town by that regiment. In order to reoccupy the town the 313th Infantry moved the 1st Battalion, which had been heavily engaged at AMBACOURT, to attack with the 2d Battalion in a double envelopment of the town. On the morning of 14 September, the 1st Battalion attacked from the northeast, while the 2d Battalion struck from the south. Before noon POUSSAY was captured after having been the scene of hard and bitter fighting for two days.

13. While the three combat commands of the 79th Infantry Division were thus engaged against the Infantry regiments of the 16th German Infantry Division, the 2d French Armored Division carried out its mission of protecting the south flank of Army by means of patrols, which operated between CHAUMONT and TONNERRE but made no contact with the enemy in that area on 11 September. (21) In its advance Task Force ROULI, consisting of one company of armored infantry, one company of light tanks, two reconnaissance troops, one battery of 105mm Howitzers, 3 platoons of TD's, and 1 engineer platoon, met extremely active resistance at ANDELOT, which CCL (advancing in two columns) had bypassed to the north. CCL encountered strong enemy fire at PREZ SOUS LA FAUCHE and at CONTREXEVILLE. (22) CCV continued to advance in its zone.

14. During 12 and 13 September only Combat Commands CCL and CCV of the 2d French Armored Division were engaged. In the vicinity of VITTEL, CCL met strong resistance. On 12 September, outflanking VITTEL from the south, that Combat Command launched an infantry attack on the town, which fell at 1630. Five hundred prisoners were taken. CCV attacked ANDELOT against infantry resistance and artillery fire and captured the town and 600 prisoners by 1500. During the night 12-13 September and on the morning of 13 September, CCV moved to the vicinity of CONTREXEVILLE.

15. Task Force ROULI continued the protection of the division's south flank while CCD screened the line: TONNERRE - CHAUMONT and later relieved CCV at ANDELOT. There CCD made contact with the 16th German Infantry Division which was attempting to secure an east to west line extending generally from south to NEUFCHATEAU to southeast of EPINAL. The 223d Inf Regt, Battle Group ADAM, 221st Inf Regt, 225th Inf Regt, elements of 353d Assault Gun Brigade, and Battle Group RITZER (all elements of the 16th Division) were identified on 12 and 13 September.

16. While the 2d French Armored Division was thus engaged, all units of the 106th Cavalry Group operated in the zone of the 79th Infantry Division throughout 12 September. The 106th Cavalry Squadron contacted the enemy at TREUILLE-VA-PETITE and then reconnoitered toward BAUDRICOURT after being relieved by CT 313 which had moved up from the vicinity of BIEHERRY. Meanwhile, Troop "A" crossed the MOSELLE on the north in the 4th Armored Division's zone during the night and

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reconnoitered to the northeast in the direction of CHAMAGNE and ST. REMY. No contact was made with the enemy in either town during the morning of 13 September. (23)

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17. The 121st Cavalry Squadron had faced to the south and encountered very strong enemy groups at road blocks and at isolated positions along its front between GIRONCOURT and HOUDRICOURT but the squadron kept contact with the enemy despite strong machine gun and artillery fire. At GIRONCOURT hostile resistance was overcome and 3 enemy antitank guns destroyed by 1900 12 September. Near CHATENOIS, other elements of the squadron fought Battle Group WEIZEL. (24) Troop "A" moved through NEUFCHATEAU and reached VITTEL at 0700 13 September, where it found, unharmed and safe about 2000 internees of all nationalities, principally women and children, of whom 500 were Americans. (25)

18. By dark 12 September a steady advance eastward had been made on the entire Corps front bitterly contacted by various German units but principally by the 16th Infantry Division. While this division on an east and west line facing north fought hard to keep open at EPIVAL an escape gap for the retreating German forces, the enemy was unloading tanks at EPIVAL for a counterattack on the southern flank of XII Corps. According to reports of prisoners, an attack was to be launched north from MIRECOURT on 13 September. The rapid advance of XV Corps during the 11th and 12th September frustrated the enemy plan, however, and the advancing enemy tanks were caught by surprise at DOIRPAIRE. There, in a brilliant action on 13 September in which air and ground forces closely coordinated, COL of the 2d French Armored Division wiped out an enemy tank battalion and forced all other German units to withdraw with heavy losses. More than 60 factory-new Mk IV and Mk V tanks were destroyed. Those that succeeded in withdrawing to EPIVAL contented themselves thereafter with feeble patrol actions west of that city.

19. While the 314th Infantry maintained its battalion bridgehead to the east at CHARLES, prepared to cross the river on Corps Order (26), the 313th Infantry moved south from POUSSAY to attack MIRECOURT. The town and 200 prisoners of war were taken at 1415 14 September. The 313th Infantry then attacked west to seize RALECOURT. A counterattack against RALECOURT at 0230 13 September was repulsed after brisk hand-to-hand fighting in which 49 German prisoners were taken. (27) The remaining enemy forces west of RALECOURT were again engaged at 1000 15 September and completely destroyed.

20. The 315th RCT moving southeast from NEUFCHATEAU in the vicinity of the FORET DE NEUVEYS met large enemy forces at CHATENOIS and attacked them during the afternoon of 13 September and throughout the next day. The action at CHATENOIS was characterized by bitter fighting, for remaining enemy resistance in the Corps' zone had been pocketed in the area between CHATENOIS and RALECOURT, (28) by the attacks of the 2d French Armored Division from the south, the 313th RCT toward the west and southwest, and the 315th RCT toward the east and southeast while the Cavalry blocked on the north. By nightfall, 14 September, CHATENOIS had been captured after fierce fighting in the streets in which 300 enemy prisoners, probably belonging to Battle Group WEIZEL (29), were taken. 65 other prisoners of war, 2 staff cars, 2 infantry howitzers, 8 trucks and 1 two-and-a-half ton truck loaded with small arms and ammunition surrendered to the 315th RCT that morning in the vicinity of NEUFCHATEAU. (30)

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21. While elements of CCV at BAZOUILLES, BOULAY and BOUTEVILLE reported to strike east and southeast, reconnaissance elements of CCL reached the MOSELLE at VINCEY and NOLEXY during the afternoon. At 1500, two enemy companies of M4 IV tanks and about one company of infantry attacked the rear of CCL at VILLE-SUR-ILTON. Less than a platoon of tanks and 2 M's with the aid of 2 strafing P-47s without bombloads, held the high ground south of the village. Enemy attempts to encircle the position, first with tanks and then with infantry, were decisively beaten back. At nightfall the enemy withdrew leaving their dead and seven tanks destroyed or disabled on the field. The French lost one M4 tank. CCD continued its mission of screening the line: TONNERRE - CHAUMONT - ANDELOT throughout 13 and 14 September.(31)

22. The 106th Cavalry Group continued reconnaissance and screening actions on 13 September, reporting that the 121st Cavalry Squadron was held up by defended road blocks, employing artillery, mortar and small arms fire, and by forces varying in size from a company to a battalion at the towns of AULNOIS, CHATENOIS, GIRON-COURT and ROUVRES. However, a unit of the 121st Cavalry Squadron forced its way into CHATENOIS from the north by 1430 on 13 September assisting the 315th RCT then engaged there. Four hours later, the 106th Cavalry Squadron, operating east of the MOSELLE, reported ST. REMY, ROZELIEURES, DAMAS, ESSEGNEY, VERTEZEY and the country as far north as RJ (Z983763) clear.(32) Elements of the 121st Cavalry Squadron at VITTEL were attacked by German tanks from the south at 1830 13 September, but the squadron successfully fought them off.

23. On 14 September XV Corps, despite its steady progress to the east and the establishment of its bridgehead across the MOSELLE, continued to meet determined isolated resistance throughout its entire zone. With the 1st Battalion 314th Infantry securely established in a bridgehead on the east bank of the river the rest of that regiment was directed, in compliance with the oral orders of the Commanding General, Third Army, to halt on the MOSELLE and to remain on the west side prepared to cross on Corps order. The other two regiments of the 79th Infantry Division advanced east toward the MOSELLE, cleaning out enemy pockets and destroying resistance in their paths.

24. The 2d French Armored Division at this time established contact with units of the Seventh Army at BAIGNEUX and CHATHION, liaison having previously been established by the 1st French Infantry Division at SOMBERNON on 11 September. On 14 September the 2d French Armored Division was relieved from the mission of protecting the south flank of the Third Army west of TROYES.

25. CCV by dark 14 September captured MATTAINCOURT and VELOTTE taking 200 prisoners. During 15 September CCV continued liquidating enemy pockets in its zone.(33) Elements of the same combat command seized HOUDECOURT the same day and continued to mop up along the axis: VITTEL - HOUDECOURT to clear a route to its ASP at ATTIGEVILLE.

26. CCD continued protecting the south flank on the line: TROYES - ANDELOT - CHAUMONT, reaching BOULAY on 15 September, without contact with the enemy. Task Force "G" of CCD attacked enemy forces estimated at 200 infantry and 3 tanks at LITFOL-LE-PETIT at 1300 14 September, and against KILFOL-LE-GRAND at 1400 on the same day,(34) forcing the enemy to withdraw. Task Force ROUM occupied DARNAY at 1530 on 16 September, engaging enemy forces estimated to be one infantry battalion with antitank guns at MONTHUREUX-SUR-SAONE.

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27. On 15 September the 79th Infantry Division completed mopping up remnants of the 16th German Infantry Division west of the MOSELLE. While the 1st Battalion 314th Infantry Regiment continued holding a bridgehead east of the river in the vicinity of CHARLES, the 315th RCT cleared its zone, moving through ROUVRES to HOUDECOURT, where at 1015 it made contact with the east force of the 2d French Armored Division which had already occupied the town. During the morning the 315th RCT took DOMVALTIER, destroying and capturing large quantities of enemy equipment, including 18 antitank guns, 6 infantry and 2 artillery howitzers, and several passenger vehicles and trucks. 50 of the enemy were killed and 200 were taken prisoner. (35)

28. Shortly after noon 15 September the 313th RCT and 315th RCT made contact with each other near ROUVRES, and after reducing the remaining resistance there both moved to assembly areas in the vicinity of CHARLES. They closed in their new areas before dark.

29. The 106th Cavalry Group continued partolling in its area to the east of the MOSELLE, engaging the enemy in sporadic fighting along the line: GIRONCOURT - ROUVRES, destroying 9 vehicles on the 14th and 15th and firing on 200-300 Germans in a factory at GIRONCOURT and on 50 to 100 trucks in the same vicinity. (36)

30. From 1-15 September, XV Corps was in combat for only 5 days during which five out of six combat commands in the Corps had been continuously engaged in actions each independent of the others. In that time the Corps advanced approximately 30 miles in a zone 20 miles wide, accomplished its mission of establishing a bridgehead across the MOSELLE and removed all enemy threats to the south flank of Third Army. As a result of this operation, it is estimated that of the original strength of 7000 of the 16th German Inf Division at least 4000 were captured, 1000 killed, 1000 wounded and the greater part of the materiel of the division either destroyed or captured. (37) Especially noteworthy had been the action of the Corps artillery which on several occasions was required to displace forward parallel to the enemy front. Due to the forceful and aggressive action of Corps units and resulting disorganization of the German forces, the artillery not only succeeded in executing this movement successfully, but in supporting the bridgehead at CHARLES, actually occupied positions on the enemy's planned axis of advance.

31. On 15 September the 2d French Armored Division continued protection of the south flank of XV Corps. Elements of CCV occupied HYLONT, VITTEL, and COMPREX-VILLE, while Task Force la Horie composed of one company of armored infantry, one company of medium tanks, one reconnaissance troop, and one battalion of 105 Howitzers, patrolled the MOSELLE from THAON to NOREXY but made no contact with the enemy. CCB in the DOMPAIRE - DAMAS area received concentrated artillery fire at one of its crossroad positions between 0600 and 0730. Although a German attack was expected to follow the concentration, none materialized. Task Force Roua reconnoitering in the direction of MONTAUREUX-SUR-SAONE encountered one infantry battalion of the enemy near BAIN-LES-BAINS after dark but the engagement was broken off without observed results. (The next day 23 enemy tanks were reported still in this area). CCB continued the occupation of the CHAULONT - ANDELOT area awaiting relief by CCB of the 6th Armored Division.

32. The 106th Cavalry Group reconnoitered areas south of CHARLES and of HOUDECOURT during the day, reporting both clear. This group was ordered to extend its reconnaissance east of the river on 16 September as far as the line: RAMBER-VILLERS - RACH L'ETAPPE - BECCARAT in the Corps zone, keeping north of the line: NOREXY - RAMBERVILLERS.

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33. Enemy air activity on 15 September was confined to the 190's over the Corps area. Of these the 23d AAA Group shot down one.

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34. The 106th Cavalry Sector crossed the MOSELLE RIVER at 0900 16 September in the zone of the REIMS area, approximately 10 kilometers north of CHARLES. The 121st Cavalry Squadron on approaching RAMBERVILLERS was attacked three kilometers northwest of the town by two enemy half-tracks which destroyed one of the troop's jeeps and withdrew. This was the first contact at RAMBERVILLERS which remained in enemy hands until 30 September.

35. Later in the morning a report was received from the 4th Armored Division that 40 enemy tanks, 3 batteries of 105mm and 150mm artillery, and 1000 troops were concentrated in the RAMBERVILLERS area. (38) The enemy was reported by civilians to have entered the town only on the morning before (39) with the probable intent of establishing a defensive line between RAMBERVILLERS and BACCARAT with reserves at ST. DIE. (40) From that line it was planned to launch an armored attack westward in the direction of CHATEL to relieve pressure on the 16th German Infantry Division. The latter part of the plan was changed, according to prisoners, after the 2d French Armored Division defeated an enemy assault on CHATEL late on 16 September.

36. At 1830 16 September, shortly after it had crossed into CHATEL, Task Force Ia Horic from CCV received an enemy attack by 15 tanks and two battalions of infantry from the 111th Panzer Brigade. (41) With only a small patrol force the French held until infantry and artillery reinforcements from Sous-Groupement Cantarel were brought up. After more than two hours' heavy fighting the enemy was repulsed with the loss of 5 tanks destroyed and 200 Germans killed. The French had one M-4 tank and one quarter-ton truck destroyed and suffered 15 casualties of whom three were killed. (42) After this engagement the task force withdrew west of the MOSELLE. According to prisoners, it was primarily our artillery which not only smashed this attack but, during this day and the next, decided the German command to confine its future westward thrusts to patrol actions only.

37. There was no other important engagement on the XV Corps front during 16 September. The 79th Infantry Division organized positions on both sides of the river and sent patrols into the FORET DE CHARLES which made contact with the enemy at VEINNEZEY. (43)

38. CCB of the 2d French Armored Division was relieved on 16 September in the CHAUMONT - ANDELOT area by CCB of the 6th Armored Division and began moving east at 2000 to the area: BULNEVILLE - COMTEUXVILLE. CCB remained outposting the Corps south flank at DO PAIRE and DAMAS.

39. While XV Corps remained west of the MOSELLE with reconnaissance elements and one battalion east of the river, in compliance with the orders of the Army Commander, preparatory to beginning its advance east of the river, enemy armor was reported to be active, particularly in the southern part of the Corps zone. (44) The 106th Cavalry Group reported 20 enemy tanks entering RAMBERVILLERS, and at 1510 on 17 September 15 more crossed the river near HONEY. (45) Troop "A", 106th Cavalry Squadron, reconnoitering in the vicinity of PORTHEIM was forced to withdraw at 1230 by an enemy armored attack. The troop destroyed one enemy tank before moving southeast to ESSEGNEY.

40. Earlier in the morning of 17 September in the vicinity of ESSEGNEY 6 German tanks unsupported by infantry struck at the 79th Infantry Division's bridgehead, held by the 1st Battalion 314th Infantry. The battalion destroyed one tank and the others withdrew. (46)

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41. While the enemy ineffectually maneuvered his armor for counterattack, the 79th Infantry Division continued to organize the Corps bridgehead, and the 2d French Armored Division advanced CCV and CCD to areas just west of the MOSELLE prepared to cross the river and attack east and northeast when the Corps resumed its advance.

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42. CCV occupied the line: NOEUXY - BETTEGNEY - TADGNEY - DERBAUMONT. CCD, following the approval by Third Army of the request of the Commanding General, XV Corps that the Corps be relieved of the responsibility for protecting the Army south flank west of the EUSE, completed the movement of all its elements to the east of the EUSE RIVER before noon, 17 September.

43. On the morning of 18 September, an enemy patrol at NOEUXY, (Probably part of the armored force observed crossing in the direction of that town on the previous night) was engaged by elements of CCV, which entered the town in the early morning. Heavy fighting ensued but the town was cleared by 1045 and the 2d French Armored Division occupied the town in force during the afternoon, at the same time clearing the road from BOCCQUEGNEY to NOEUXY.

44. During the period in which XV Corps had been executing its mission of protecting the right flank of Third Army by wiping out the last enemy resistance in its zone west of the MOSELLE and bringing forces into position to attack across the river, the XII Corps on the left had advanced to the northeast. On the afternoon of 18 September, Third Army ordered a resumption of the attack along the Army front to force the Siegfried line, to secure crossings of the RHINE in XII Corps zone, and to capture TRANSPORT in the XX Corps zone. XV Corps was directed to continue its primary mission of protecting Third Army's south flank during the advance. The execution of this mission required that XV Corps cross the MOSELLE, advance northeast and maintain contact on its south flank with Seventh Army. The Commanding General XV Corps accordingly issued verbal orders to commanders of divisions and Corps troops for an immediate advance. These verbal orders were confirmed by Field Order 9 which was published at 1630, 18 September. The Corps plan was to attack with divisions abreast, 2d French Armored Division on the right, cross the MOSELLE, and secure the line: RAIBERVILLER - LUNEVILLE, between the line: BACCARAT - BLAMONT and the line: BAYON - LUNEVILLE. The 79th Infantry Division was ordered to seize before dark 18 September as its initial objective the west bank of the MORTAGNE RIVER; then advance to occupy the high ground in its zone between LA MEURTHE and LA VEZOUSE RIVERS. The 2d French Armored Division (less one combat command) was to cross the MOSELLE, limiting its advance to the road: ST. PIERRE-MONT - MOYEN - GERBEVILLE. One combat command (CCV) was to be left west of the MOSELLE, guarding the Corps and Army south flank until such time as the advance of the VI Corps (Seventh Army) from the south made its presence in the area west of the MOSELLE unnecessary. (47)

45. In the execution of these orders the 2d French Armored Division established a bridgehead in its own zone at CHATEL before dark 18 September, at the same time concentrating west of the river for an attack on the following day. (48) CCD moved to the vicinity of HYMONT during the afternoon, while CCV established the bridgehead and sent advance elements as far east as MORVILLE. Task Force Roum meanwhile advanced on NOEUXY; the remainder of the combat command remaining in positions to the southwest where they had been for several days.

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46. In the zone of the 79th Infantry Division on 18 September the advance across the river commenced at 1730. The 313th Infantry Regiment leading on foot. By 1930 the regiment had reached MORVILLE. The advance continued without opposition, reaching MORVILLE the next morning at 0955, and thence on to GERBEVILLER where the first heavy enemy resistance was encountered.

47. On the same day the 313th Infantry crossed the river and moved forward by motor against only sporadic resistance to reach EINVAUX by 2345, close to its initial objective. The objective, northwest of GERBEVILLER was reached the next morning, 19 September, by 0600, and the attack pushed east toward MONT where it was stopped by heavy resistance. The 315th Infantry advancing in the zone of the 313th Infantry on 18 September extended the division bridgehead to the south to connect with the French and then took up positions in regimental reserve. Heavy rains with consequent high water in the MOSELLE increased the difficulty of crossings on the division front.

48. The 106th Cavalry Group covered the advance of the Corps to the northeast and extended to the line: PORTIEUX - HADIGNY - MOYEMONT - ST MAURICE-SUR-MORTAGNE - ST PIERREMONT. The 121st Cavalry Squadron reconnoitering in the vicinity of GERBEVILLER, discovered a strong enemy force in that area and withdrew to MORVILLE.

49. The enemy which XV Corps now attacked and which during the succeeding week tenaciously contested every advance, consisted almost entirely of elements of various panzer units. The largest organized group was the 21st SS Panzer Division which had been badly beaten in the Normandy fighting and was estimated to be reduced to an effective strength of 3500 officers and men and 30 tanks. There were indications, however, that the division, if not reconstituted, had at least been reinforced by replacement battalions, and by the attachment of one or possibly three panzer brigades, the 111th, 112th, and 113th. (49) Elements of all three brigades were identified in the area; the 111th and 112th in strength. The major unit of the 112th Brigade identified in the area was the 2112th Panzer Grenadier Regiment, estimated to contain two battalions of 400 to 450 men each. One tank battalion of the 112th Panzer Brigade identified had 45 tanks when committed on this front (50), principally in the zone of the 79th Infantry Division. The 111th Panzer Brigade opposing the advance of the 2d French Armored Division had two tank battalions, one with about 45 Mk IV tanks, the other with the same number of Mk V's. The brigade was, however, a newly formed unit said to be composed of personnel who had previously been declared unfit for military service.

50. In addition to these two brigades, which constituted the bulk of the enemy forces, the 2d French Armored Division encountered also the following units of the 21st Panzer Division: 155th Panzer Artillery Regiment (8 105mm gun-howitzers and 3 150mm gun-howitzers), 215th Panzer Grenadier Regiment, 192d Panzer Grenadier Regiment, and 220th Panzer Engineer Battalion.

51. To the north and principally in the zone of XII Corps were elements of the 15th Panzer Division. The 79th Infantry Division met units of this division however, in the vicinity of JUEVILLE, and the presence of the division presented a continuing threat to the left flank of the XV Corps. On 20th September elements of the 104th Panzer Grenadier Regiment were identified at ROCHECOURT and BILMONT; as were also an engineer battalion and the 315th AAA Battalion, both attached to the 15th Panzer Division. (51)

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52. The bulk of the enemy resistance on 19 September opposed the advance of the 79th Infantry Division. The 313th Infantry attacking in the north of the 79th Division zone along the MORTAGNE RIVER met heavy opposition against which it fought all day. Resistance was centered in three towns: (51) at MONT where the EBI had reported one Mark V tank and 30 riflemen; (52) at LAMATH where a platoon of Troop "A" 121st Cavalry Squadron had entered in the morning only to be forced out by a heavy enemy mortar concentration; (53) and at XERIAHENIL across the MORTAGNE where elements of the 192d Panzer Grenadier Regiment were concentrated. (54) The 1st Battalion of the Regiment attacked LAMATH and after heavy fighting captured the town at 1630. The 3d Battalion crossed the river during the afternoon and engaged a force of about 10 enemy tanks and 200 infantry outside XERIAHENIL. Toward evening the tanks withdrew to the east and the town fell at 1940. In the course of the fighting the German 3d Company, 192d Panzer Grenadier Regiment, was wiped out. (55)

53. While the 313th Infantry was thus engaged, the 314th Infantry to the south launched an attack at 1800 19 September against GERBEVILLER. The attack was broken off at dark and resumed the following morning. Most of the enemy apparently withdrew during the night leaving numerous mines in the town. The 314th Infantry reported GERBEVILLER clear at 1000 20 September.

54. The 315th Infantry remained in regimental reserve in the vicinity of EINVAUX on 19 September. In the day's fighting the 79th Infantry Division took 33 prisoners and destroyed 8 enemy tanks. (56)

55. On 18 September against light resistance from elements of Kampfgruppe Adam, and the 2d Battalion 223d Infantry at CHATEL, and the 2d Battalion 91st Flieger Regiment at VAXONCOURT (57), the 2d French Armored Division advanced. CHATEL was cleaned out during the night 18-19 September and CCV advance elements on 19 September continued the attack from MORVILLE toward REHAINCOURT, making no contact with the enemy. HADIGNY and HAILLANVILLE were captured by 1300 and CCV occupied the line: DAMAS AU BOIS - HAILLANVILLE, protecting the flank of Corps and Army to the east and southeast. CCL reached its objective during the night and occupied MOYEN, VALLOIS, and MAGNIERES. CCL was disposed to defend the two bridges at CHATEL, which were shelled intermittently during the day by artillery of small caliber, one of the bridges finally being destroyed by shell fire.

56. At 0800 20 September the 313th Infantry resumed the attack across the MORTAGNE RIVER and had crossed all elements by 0900. Advancing from the west steadily during the morning and afternoon the regiment passed through LUNEVILLE (then held by one battalion of the 44th Armored Infantry, 4th Armored Division) (58) and reached a point about one kilometer southeast of the town where it began to receive observed enemy artillery fire. (59) The regiment was held up there, and during the night its position was heavily shelled by the enemy.

57. The 314th Infantry, in the meantime, after liquidating a small pocket of infantry resistance in the BOIS DE LA TAXONNIERE advanced its I & R Platoon and attacked cavalry elements during the afternoon of 20 September to the high ground west of the MEURTHE RIVER. The 3d Battalion found the bridge in its zone at (V130945) destroyed and ran into heavy opposition. Consequently, the division commander decided to delay attempts to force the crossing until the next day. In the fighting the battalion lost 2 tanks and destroyed two of the enemy's. The 2d Battalion engaging an enemy force in the vicinity of FRAMBOIS, destroyed five Mark V tanks and 60 other vehicles. In addition air support accounted for 40 miscellaneous enemy vehicles.

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58. The 2d French Armored Division remained in place on 20 September and conducted active patrolling in the course of which Task Force Roum destroyed one German tank and 4 other armored vehicles. 8th Compiment Massu from CCL advanced from VAXONCOURT and took HADIGNY late in the afternoon after heavy fighting. (60)

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59. On 20 September XV Corps' left boundary was pushed north by agreement with XII Corps. The new boundary placed the FORET DE VITRIMONT, LUNEVILLE, and the FORET DE PARROY in XV Corps zone. The direction of the enemy retreat and the disposition of his forces made the control of those areas essential to the success of the XV Corps' advance.

60. Stubborn enemy resistance and a series of small unit skirmishes marked the fighting on 21 September in the 79th Infantry Division's zone. LUNEVILLE, now the responsibility of the 79th Infantry Division, had not been cleared entirely of the enemy. Throughout the morning the 1st Battalion, 313th Infantry, was engaged in house to house fighting in the town. The 3d Battalion, on a report of a concentration of enemy, including Mark IV tanks, at MONCEL, was sent southeast at 0900 to clear that town. MONCEL was not captured, however, until 1545, after the 2d Battalion, on gaining its objective just east of LUNEVILLE, turned south to join in the attack. MONCEL cleared, the 2d Battalion passed through the 3d Battalion, attacking towards the FORET DE MONDON. There it ran into well defended enemy positions and began a seesaw fight which was to go on all the next day. (61) In the southern zone of the division, the 314th Infantry resumed its attack across the MEURTHE RIVER at 0600 21 September. Although there was no enemy resistance at the river, dense fog hampered the operation. Later the units trying to cross were met with such heavy small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire, that by noon only two platoons had succeeded in establishing themselves on the east bank. (62) The fight for the crossing continued during the afternoon until by 1650 three companies had reached the far side. They found, however, that they could not cross open ground between the river and the FORET DE MONDON and before dark, two companies pulled back across the river, leaving one company to hold the bridgehead.

61. In the face of stiffening resistance the entire 315th Infantry moved from EVINAUX to GERBEVILLE at 0730 21 September. The 3d Battalion remained there while the 1st and 2d Battalions proceeded to relieve the 313th Infantry at LUNEVILLE. (63) The 1st Battalion, 313th Infantry, passed to regimental reserve.

62. Information of the enemy received on 21 September indicated that strong forces of the 15th Panzer Division might be north of the FORET DE PARROY preparing to attack through LUNEVILLE toward NANCY. (64) LUNEVILLE was under enemy artillery fire, and at 1515 eleven enemy tanks were observed at JOLIVET a few kilometers to the northeast. These tanks were engaged by the 79th Division Artillery and one tank was destroyed. Air reconnaissance kept the remainder under surveillance. (65)

63. The 2d French Armored Division zone was relatively quiet on 21 September. CCD seized DOMPTAIN against only light resistance and patrolled east and west of the MORTAGNE RIVER. CCV and CCL did not advance.

64. At daylight 22 September elements identified as belonging to the 11th and 112th Panzer Brigades, supported by artillery, attacked the 2d Battalion, 313th Infantry in MONCEL and broke through into the northwest corner of the town. They were surrounded there, however, and destroyed. (66) The 313th Infantry at 0700, resumed its attack to gain the FORET DE MONDON with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast. The 2d Battalion reached the edge of the wood by 1830 but could not hold its position in the face of automatic fire from the wood. It fell back to a line

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between the railroad and the wood. The 3d Battalion sent two companies in assault against the wood while one went south along the railroad tracks, attempting a flanking movement. (67) Contending against stubborn opposition on terrain which gave every advantage to the enemy, and struggling with a shortage of ammunition, the regiment failed to make any substantial gains during the day. It did, however, destroy 5 enemy tanks.

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65. The attack of the 314th Infantry on 22 September met with greater success. At 0545, following a 30-minute artillery preparation the regiment attacked throughout the day, four companies from the 2d and 3d Battalions forcing a crossing before dark. They were unable to bring up their heavy weapons, however, and attempts to reinforce the bridgehead with tanks and TD's were unsuccessful due to the impassible condition of the ford. The only available bridge near MONCEL could not be used as to reach it would have required the tanks to maneuver over several thousand yards of open ground. Two tanks and one TD were able to cross the ford before night, but the remainder waited to cross on a trestle bridge which the Corps Engineers began during darkness and completed by 0430 the next morning. The four companies mentioned above held the bridgehead for the night. (68)

66. On 22 September, two battalions of the 315th Infantry were engaged in stubborn fighting on the outskirts of LUNEVILLE. The fighting was particularly severe in and near the city stadium on the edge of the town, where the enemy was disposed in considerable force. (69)

67. In the zone of the 2d French Armored Division the infantry of CCD forded the MEURTHE RIVER on 22 September and established a bridgehead between FLIN and VATHIMENIL and another at CHENEVIERES (70). The bridgeheads were consolidated before dark and as the fords were found impracticable for heavy vehicles, two trestle bridges were constructed during the night.

68. CCI, relieved of the mission of defending XV Corps' south flank west of the MEURTHE by the advance of the 45th Infantry Division (VI Corps) on EPINAL, moved during the afternoon of 22 September to an area east of the MOSELLE, closing at 1900. CCR occupied FONTENOIS LA JOUTE and reached GLONVILLE in spite of heavy resistance.

69. The bulk of the 106th Cavalry Group operated in the vicinity of LUNEVILLE during the 22d September, blocking roads to the north and screening the left flank of the Corps. One troop of the 106th Cavalry Squadron protected the right flank of the 314th Infantry in its advance on the FORET DE MONDON, but late in the afternoon withdrew by routes west of the MEURTHE to rejoin the rest of the squadron north of LUNEVILLE. Attempts to proceed northeast towards JOLIVET were thwarted by heavy observed enemy artillery fire. The 121st Cavalry Squadron on the right of the 106th Cavalry Squadron blocked roads leading into LUNEVILLE as far north as DEUXVILLE.

70. The Corps artillery was active during the day, firing counterbattery missions and assisting in repelling armored counterattacks in the 79th Infantry Division zone. By combined artillery and infantry action, seven enemy tanks were knocked out.

71. With the completion of the bridge in the zone of the 314th Infantry on 23 September, the 2d and 3d Battalions crossed their remaining elements, including

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two platoons of tanks, six TDs and six AT guns. In the afternoon a company of the 313th Infantry which had been sent to occupy enemy positions in the FORET DE MONDON made contact with the enemy. Enemy opposition (small arms and machine gun fire) became appreciably lighter. Both regiments entered the forest. The 313th Infantry halted for the night 500 yards inside the forest where it regrouped out of contact with the enemy. The next morning strong patrols of the 313th Infantry and 314th Infantry advanced through the forest without opposition.

72. The 315th Infantry having cleared LUNEVILLE by dark on 22 September made no further contact with the enemy except through patrols sent out the morning of 23 September.

73. The 2d French Armored Division also advanced on 22 September and met with slight opposition only. CCD patrolled as far as la VEZOUSE RIVER, one column occupying BURIVILLE and another column moving north through the FORET DE MONDON. The only enemy met in force was by the latter column at BENAMENIL, where infantry with tank support was encountered. Other elements of CCD occupied THIEBAUENIL and patrols entered LAROUXE. Elements of CCL took over the bridgehead at FLIN under command of CCD. Patrols sent out to AZERAILLES found that town held by the enemy. The remainder of the 2d French Armored Division continued to occupy positions facing east and southeast along the Corps flank.

74. During the night 23-24 September enemy artillery fired a heavy concentration on THIEBAUENIL in the 2d French Armored Division zone and also scattered harassing fire in the zone of the 315th Infantry. From this time until 28 September enemy artillery continued building up throughout the XV Corps zone. Most of the artillery batteries were located in the vicinity of the FORET DE PARROY. The enemy seemed to be well supplied with ammunition (71), and appeared to be preparing a dug-in defense along the north bank of la VEZOUSE RIVER in the FORET DE PARROY.

75. The enemy withdrawal which had begun in XV Corps zone about noon on 23 September continued throughout the morning of 24 September and the 79th Infantry Division and 2d French Armored Division occupied the south bank of la VEZOUSE against only slight opposition. Three companies of the 2112 Panzer Grenadier Regiment (totalling less than 80 men and without heavy weapons) (72) were encountered and pushed back by patrols of the 313th Infantry advancing on CROISMARE. Patrols of the 314th Infantry meanwhile reached MARAINVILLER where they made contact with elements of CCD 2d French Armored Division, which had captured that town at 1000. In the course of its advance the 314th Infantry recaptured six light tanks and three assault guns which the enemy had previously taken from an American cavalry unit. (73) The main body of the 313th Infantry remained along the western edge of the FORET DE VITREIMONT, east of the BLAINVILLE - DOBASLE road. The 315th Infantry occupied positions in the northeast portion of LUNEVILLE, sending patrols to CHANTEHEUX in the afternoon. That town was found to be clear and patrols secured the south bank of la VEZOUSE in the 315th Infantry's zone.

76. After occupying MARAINVILLER on 23 September, CCD completed the crossing of the MEURTHE and occupied the northeast edge of the FORET DE MONDON, holding the high ground which commanded the terrain to the southeast. CCD northeast of the BOIS DE GIOVILLE engaged in a fire fight with the enemy in the vicinity of REGARAT. Other 2d French Armored Division forces were regrouped. CCD relieved elements of CCL at ROMONT and ST MAURICE, while CCL took over from CCD the protection of the bridges at FLIN and VATHIEVILLE.

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77. During the night 23-24 September XV Corps artillery, though seriously handicapped by a shortage of ammunition of all calibers, fired 1600 rounds in 22 counterbattery missions, principally on the west and southeast edges of the FORET DE PARROY against 13 enemy gun locations. Missions were fired in concentration of three battalions of howitzers and one battery of heavy artillery. (74) Company B, 813th TD Battalion fired 800 rounds of indirect fire on roads in the forest. Since enemy air activity from this date (24 September) to the end of the month was very slight, the 115th AAA Gun Battalion was used on several occasions on ground missions. During 24 September the battalion fired 28 rounds at troop concentrations in the forest.

78. At dark 24 September when XV Corps issued Operations Instructions No 15 for an attack north of la VEZOUSE RIVER, the situation on the Corps front was as follows: The 79th Infantry Division on the left, 2d French Armored Division on the right occupied the south bank of la VEZOUSE RIVER from LUNEVILLE east to BENAVENTIL, while the 106th Cavalry Group had pushed north through JOLIVET. The enemy had withdrawn to the north bank of the river, intrenching his infantry and artillery and part of his armor in strong defensive positions throughout the FORET DE PARROY and east along the heights north of the river. Elements of the 104th Panzer Grenadier Regiment (15th Panzer Division) were dug-in in the forest with at least six tanks and five artillery pieces in support. A mixed enemy engineer battalion of about 600 men was disposed along the MARNE AU RHIN CANAL in contact with other enemy elements in the forest. (75) Farther north, astride the canal, and opposing also units of the XII Corps, were the 110th and 111th Panzer Grenadier Regiments of the 11th Panzer Division. Opposing the French to the southeast were at least two battalions of the 112th and 111th Panzer Brigades. The 112th Brigade held the river line, lightly at first, but in growing strength during the latter days of the month. The 111th Brigade was established along the general line: DOMJEVIN - HABLAINVILLE. Extending the line south, one company held the HABLAINVILLE - AZERATILES road, and another company with mortars and nebelwerfers occupied the latter town. On the right flank of the 2d French Armored Division the enemy occupied a series of strong points between BACCARAT and RAIBERVILLERS, each of three small towns along this line being garrisoned by at least a company of infantry with infantry mortars. Enemy tanks were known to be in BACCARAT.

79. The full strength of the enemy in the zone of the 2d French Armored Division was not immediately apparent. However, the strongest part of the enemy position was clearly the FORET DE PARROY in the zone of the 79th Infantry Division. Hence the Corps plan called for a large scale bombing of the forest. This bombing was to have been followed by a general attack, the 79th Infantry Division advancing to the east and one combat command of the 2d French Armored Division crossing the VEZOUSE and continuing its advance. It was further planned that after the bombing of the forest, the 79th Infantry Division would advance to the eastern edge of the FORET DE PARROY and there await further orders while the 2d French Armored Division with one combat command would secure the road centers east of the forest. The bombing and subsequent attack were originally scheduled for the morning of 25 September. Bad weather forced its postponement. (76)

80. Patrols of the 79th Infantry Division on the morning of 25 September discovered road blocks and intrenched enemy infantry in the FORET DE PARROY and were fired on by artillery, machine pistols and mortars from positions within the forest. (77) Combat patrols of the 79th Infantry Division, crossed la VEZOUSE RIVER and reached Hill 299, six kilometers to the northeast, but heavy artillery

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fire forced them to withdraw after losing 3 tanks, 30 trucks and 30 to 40 men. Intense enemy artillery fire also fell on the bridge and the bridge at TEIN, compelling engineers constructing the bridge to abandon work at 1430. Work was resumed the next day, however, and the bridge was completed for one-way traffic by noon 26 September. (78)

81. At 2100 25 September XV Corps notified both divisions that the bombing of the FORET DE PARROY would be carried out between 1300 and 1400, 26 September, weather permitting. At 0700 26 September it was clear that the weather would not permit air operations. The attack was therefore cancelled and all units ordered to renew reconnaissance. (79) One company of the 813th TD Battalion was attached to each cavalry squadron, the third company remaining under Corps Artillery control for indirect fire missions.

82. Field Order 10, issued at 1300 26 September, rescinded previous operations instructions for the attack, but the objectives and boundaries remained substantially unchanged. The 79th Infantry Division south of the line: LUNEVILLE - VAUCOURT and the 2d French Armored Division were to advance abreast to secure the road net east of the FORET DE PARROY, roughly following the line: VAUCOURT (incl) - LEINTREY (excl) - DONJEVIN (excl). Later the French were ordered to delay the attack until the 79th Infantry Division reached NEUVEVILLE LUX BOIS.

83. The 2d French Armored Division, assigned a relatively narrow zone and limited objective, prepared plans to attack with only one Sous-Groupement of COC which was to take MANONVILLER and Hill 305 thereafter advancing to the high ground east of MANONVILLER. (80)

84. Meanwhile, the boundary between XII Corps and XV Corps had been changed on 25 September by mutual agreement between the Corps commanders concerned to follow the RHIN-MARNE canal east from SOMMERVILLER in order to give XV Corps additional maneuver room north of LUNEVILLE, as well as to provide additional supply routes over la VEZOUSE. The advance of XII Corps had halted west of EINVILLE on orders from the Commanding General Third Army and it therefore became necessary for XV Corps to employ the Corps cavalry to prevent German crossings of the canal from the zone of XII Corps east of EINVILLE. In conjunction with the planned attack of the 79th Infantry Division on the FORET DE PARROY, Operations Instructions No 18, dated 26 September, assigned the 106th Cavalry Group this mission. It also altered the boundaries between and the objectives of the 79th Infantry Division and the 2d French Armored Division.

85. Though the weather had so improved on the morning of 27 September that the bombers took off on their mission, a low ceiling obscured their target and they flew over the forest without dropping bombs. The attack was again cancelled.

86. The 79th Infantry Division took advantage of the lull to regroup units. Elements of the 314th Infantry were sent to garrison MARAINVILLER and CROISMARE, the 313th Infantry to garrison CLINTHEUX, while the 315th Infantry held a line along la VEZOUSE RIVER in the vicinity of LUNEVILLE, sending patrols to GRON and COURVILLER.

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87. Throughout 27 September patrols were sent out. They discovered that the enemy was steadily reinforcing his positions in the forest, particularly to the southeast. COV reported an enemy garrison of 500 men with AT Guns in RAEBERVILLERS. (81) In view of increased enemy activity to the south, the 2d French Armored Division, the primary mission of which was the protection of XV Corps right flank, was relieved of its attack mission across the VEZOUSE and ordered to be prepared to

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Sub: "Rpt After Action", dtd 13 Nov 44, Cont'd.

support with artillery the attack of the 79th Infantry Division.

88. Early in the morning of 28 September, XV Corps issued Operations Instructions No 19, embodying these changes in plan and scheduling the bombing preparation for the attack between 1045 and 1155, 28 September. The new boundary between divisions was established as the north bank of the VEZOUSE RIVER.

89. At 1045, 28 September, the first flight of medium bombers was over the target. Of 288 bombers that were to participate, only 187 B-26's flew over the forest and of that number only 37 dropped their bombs. The effect of this bombing was practically nil. Fighter bombers of the XIX TAC meanwhile attacked the FORT DE MANONVILLER, scoring 15 out of 18 direct hits with 500 pound bombs.

90. In spite of the failure of the bomb preparation for the attack the 79th Infantry Division with two regiments abreast attacked at 1400. The 315th Infantry with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast and the 313th with the 1st, 3d and 2d Battalions in column crossed the LD at the same time, and by dark had penetrated about one kilometer into the wood against strong artillery and small arms opposition.

91. Corps artillery began firing counterbattery missions at 1415, 28 September. During the next two hours, 13 enemy batteries were fired on. Eight additional batteries were fired on at night. In this counterbattery fire and additional harassing and interdiction missions the Corps artillery expended a total of 11,748 rounds. Co "B", 813th TD Battalion, reinforcing the Corps artillery, fired 1182 rounds of harassing fire at troop concentrations in the forest. Batteries "A" and "B" of the 115th AAA Gun Battalion during the same period expended 352 rounds on ground targets in the forest.

92. On 28 September the 121st and 106th Cavalry Squadrons with attached companies of the 813th TD Battalion advanced on either side of the MARNE AU RHIN canal. By 2030 the 121st Squadron on the north had reached BAUZEMONT and the 106th Squadron was about 200 yards southwest of HENAMENIL, in contact with the left flank of the 315th Infantry.

93. As of 0001 hours 29 September XV Corps with attached divisions and all Corps troops passed to the command of Seventh Army. The mission of the Corps remained substantially the same, to advance northeast, protecting the right flank of Third US Army, by securing in turn the areas: "AVRICOURT - RECHICOURT; HENING - LORQUIN; and SARBREBOURG. XV Corps was directed also to assist VI Corps in the capture of RAMBERVILLERS, BACCARAT, and BADONVILLER.

94. New boundaries, representing slight changes only made on 29 September, were as follows: Right boundary: EPINAL - RAMBERVILLERS - BACCARAT - BADONVILLER - WAGONBOURG (all excl to XV Corps except the last); Left boundary: CHAUMONT - DAMEVILLERS - HUDIVILLER - south bank of MARNE AU RHIN CANAL - HENING - SARBREBOURG - LANDAU - HEIDELBERG (all inclusive to XV Corps). (82)

95. The attack was resumed at 0900 29 September, but throughout the day made slow progress against stubborn enemy resistance. The enemy was thoroughly entrenched in a forest, parts of which contained deep underbrush, hard to walk in and hard to see through. The conditions approached those of jungle fighting. An enemy counterattack at 1630 29 September, pushed back the left flank of the 1st Battalion 313th Infantry and the 315th Infantry. The counterattack was successfully repulsed, however, and at 1800 the 2d Battalion 313th

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Infantry moved to close the gap between the 313th Infantry and the 315th Infantry. By noon 30 September the 79th Infantry advanced another 400 yards, with the enemy bitterly contesting with small arms, mortar and artillery fire.

96. The 106th Cavalry, on the morning of 29 September, advanced to secure the high ground southwest of HENAMENIL which it held throughout that day and the next in contact with the 315th Infantry. The 121st Cavalry Squadron continued to occupy BAUZEIMONT and high ground to the northeast of the town. An enemy counterattack in the zone of the 106th Cavalry Group was repelled during the afternoon of 29 September by the combined efforts of the cavalry and the 813th TD Battalion, with a loss to the enemy of thirteen Mark IV tanks, two Mark V tanks, four SP guns, two half-tracks, and 98 men.

97. The 2d French Armored Division, during the two days of 29-30 September, continued its mission of protecting the south flank of the Corps.

98. The Corps artillery on the night of 29-30 September expended 3782 rounds in counterbattery and harassing missions. The Corps artillery was again supplemented by the fires of the 115th AA Battalion, which expended 119 rounds at ground targets.

99. Thus during the month of September the XV Corps had advanced a distance of 50 miles, killed or captured approximately 11,000 of the enemy, and destroyed a total of 136 tanks, 57 Mark V and VI, 69 Mark III, and IV. Of these tanks, 24 were destroyed by tank destroyers, 44 by air action and 68 by action of combined arms. (Since the XV Corps became operational on 31 July 1944, the cumulative total of tanks destroyed by all troops assigned, attached, or in support of the XV Corps totalled 583 on 30 September 1944. This figure does not include 80 tanks destroyed by the 773d Tank Destroyer Battalion during the period 17-22 August while on temporary detached service with the V Corps). XV Corps, at the end of September had already been engaged for two days in the attack of the FORET DE PATROY. The narrative of this attack which was begun on 28 September will be continued in next month's report.

100. G-3 Journal, G-3 Journal File and list of source references cited in this report are enclosed.

101. The activities of the G-1, G-2, CofS, G-4 and G-5 Sections, Headquarters XV Corps, during the period of this report, are appended as annexes hereto.

Made to Haislip

WADE H. HAISLIP,
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding.

7. Inclosures:

- 1 - Spotnotes to Summary of Operations, XV Corps, 1 Sep to 30 Sep 44.
- 2 - G-3 Journal and Journal File, Nos. 1 thru 30 inclusive, Sep 44.
- 3 - Annex 1 (G-1 Data and Statistics).
- 4 - Annex 2 (G-2 Enemy Order of Battle).
- 5 - Annex 3 (CofS, General).
- 6 - Annex 4 (G-4, Supply, Transportation and Evacuation).
- 7 - Annex 5 - (G-5 (Civil Affairs) Historical Data).

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FOOTNOTES

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1. Periodic Reports, XV Corps, 1-8 Sep 44.
2. G-3 Journal, XV Corps, Entry 23, 5 Sep 44.
3. G-2 Report, Third Army, 5 Sep 44, Journal 19, 5 Sep.
4. Oral Instructions G-3 TUSA to G-3 XV Corps, 5 Sep (Journal No 24).
5. Operations Instructions No 13, XV Corps, 6 Sep.
6. Telephone conversation G-3 TUSA and G-3 XV Corps, 7 Sep. (No 16)
7. Movement Order No 4, XV Corps, 7 Sep.
8. Periodic Report No 32.
9. Sitrep No 152, XV Corps, 081800 Sep, Journal 8 Sep, Entry No 44.
Operations Instructions No 13, XV Corps, dated 061730B Sep, Journal 6 Sep, Entry No 36.
10. Periodic Report 35, XV Corps, 10 Sep, Journal 10 Sep, Entry 48.
11. Tp conversation Lucky 3-Hickory 3, 080930, Journal 9 Sep, Entry 13.
12. Sitrep No 153, XV Corps, 082400, Journal 9 Sep, Entry No 1.
13. Periodic Report No 33, XV Corps, 10 Sep, Journal 10 Sep, Entry No 48.
14. Operations Instructions No 14, XV Corps, 10 Sep, Journal 10 Sep, Entry 28.
15. Field Order No 8, XV Corps, Journal 10 Sep, Entry No 60.
16. Field Order No 8, XV Corps, Journal 10 Sep, Entry No 60.
17. Periodic Report No 34, 12 September, Journal 12 September, Entry 78.
18. Tp msg, 2d French Arm Div - Hickory 3, 0910, Journal 11 Sep, Entry 23.
19. Tp msg, 106th Cav Gp - Hickory 3, Journal 11 Sep, Entry 62.
20. Sitrep 79th Inf Div, 121800-122400, Journal 13 Sep, Entry 10.
21. Periodic Report No 35, XV Corps, Journal 12 Sep, Entry 78.
22. Periodic Report, No 35, XV Corps, Journal 12 Sep, Entry 78.
23. Msg from 106th Cav Gp, Journal 13 Sep, Entry 56.
24. Summary of Important Messages, G-2 Annex, Journal 13 Sep, Entry 87.
25. Msgs from 106th Cav Gp, Journal 13 Sep, Entry 56.

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26. Operations Memo 15, XV Corps, 11 September, Journal 14 Sep, Entry 27.
27. Periodic Report No 36, XV Corps, 11 September, Journal 14 Sep, Entry 101.
28. Periodic Report No 36, XV Corps, Journal 13 Sep, Entry 101.
29. G-2 Annex.
30. G-2 Messages, 140755, Journal 14 Sep, Entry 10.
31. G-3 Periodic Report, 2d French Armd Div, 1300, Journal 18 Sep, Entry 67.
32. Msg from Hickory 3 to Third US Army, Journal 13 Sep, Entry 81.
33. Periodic Report, 2d French Armored Div, 14 Sep, Journal 15 Sep, Entry 40.
34. Summary of Important Messages, 141700, Journal 14 Sep, Entry 88.
35. Tp msg from 79th Inf Div, 151410B, Journal 15 Sep, Entry 74.
36. Periodic Report No 38, XV Corps, Journal 15 Sep, Entry 67.
37. G-2 Annex.
38. Tp Msg from 4th Armd Div, 160925B, Journal 16 September, Entry 22.
See also OSS Report, Journal 16 September, Entry 51.
39. OSS Report, as above.
40. Interrogation Report No 57, Hq XII Corps, Journal 16 September, Entry 52.
Some 120 tanks were unloaded at ST. DIE and vicinity on 11 September, and headed in the direction of CHARLES. Although a tentative identification from sleeve insignias was made indicating they belonged to either the 10th SS Panzer Division or 106th Panzer Brigade, it is more likely that they were units of the 111th Panzer Brigade, which was positively identified in the vicinity of CHATEL and whose headquarters were known to have been in RAMBER-VILLIERS on 13 September.
41. Tp msg from G-2, 2d French Armd Div, 171845A, Journal 17 September, Entry 91.
42. G-3 Report, 2d French Armd Div, 170930A, Journal 17 Sep, Entry 22.
43. Summary of Important Messages, 161655 Sep, Journal 16 Sep, Entry 72.
44. Time set back one hour as of 170300. All times following are "A".
45. Msg 106th Cavalry Group, 171510A, Journal 17 Sep, Entry 92.
46. Tp msg 79th Inf Division, Journal 17 Sep, Entry 64.
47. FO No 9, XV Corps, 181630A, File of Field Orders. See also Operations Directive, Third US Army, 18 September, Journal 18 Sep, Entry 66.

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48. Sitrep No 193, XV Corps, 182400A, Journal 19 September, Entry 1.
49. There is little doubt that the 112th was so attached. A captured document relating to the promotion of an officer of the 112th Panzer Brigade states its attachment to the 21st Panzer Division; the testimony of several PW's confirms it. Less evidence exists for believing that the 111th and 113th were similarly attached.
50. Periodic Report, G-2, XV Corps, No 38, 210200A, Journal 21 Sep, Entry 10.
51. Msg from 79th Inf Division, 221130A, Journal 22 September, Entry 37.
52. Msg, 106th Cavalry Group, 190943A, Journal 19 September, Entry 53.
53. Msg, 106th Cavalry Group, 191315A, Journal 19 September, Entry 62.
54. OB Notes, 22 September, Journal 23 September, Entry 8.
55. OB Notes, 22 September, Journal 23 September, Entry 8.
56. Msg from 79th Inf Division, 200810, Journal 20 September, Entry 25.
57. G-2 Report, 2d French Arm'd Div, 191800A, Journal 20 September, Entry 35.
58. Tp msg from 79th Inf Division, 201045A, Journal 20 September, Entry 49.
59. Sitrep No 37, 79th Inf Division, 202400A, Journal 21 September, Entry 27.
60. G-3 Periodic Report, 2d French Arm'd Div, 202400A, Journal 21 September, Entry 53.
61. Sitrep No 41 - 79th Inf Division, 211800A, Journal 22 September, Entry 16.
62. Sitrep No 40 - 79th Inf Division, 211200A, Journal 21 September, Entry 61.
63. Liaison Report - 212240A.
Periodic Report, 22 September.
64. Tp msg from 79th Inf Division, 211030A, Journal 21 September, Entry 31.
65. Msg from 79th Inf Division, 211710A, Journal 21 September, Entry 71.
66. Sitrep No 207, XV Corps, 221200A, Journal 22 September, Entry 41.
67. Tp msg from 79th Inf Div, 221645A, Journal 22 September, Entry 61.
68. Sitrep 46, 79th Inf Division, 222400A, Journal 23 September, Entry 20.
69. Tp msg from 79th Inf Division, 221400A, Journal 22 September, Entry 43.
70. Sitrep No 209, XV Corps, 222400A, Journal 23 September, Entry 2.
71. G-2 Msg, 2d French Arm'd Division, 251915A, Journal 26 September, Entry 9.

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72. G-2 Periodic Report No 95, 79th Inf Div, 241210A, Journal 25 Sep, Entry 16.
73. G-2 Periodic Report No 95, 79th Inf Div, 242400A, Journal 25 Sep, Entry 16.
74. Artillery Report, XV Corps, 241210A, Journal 24 September, Entry 32.
75. 106th Cavalry Group Msg, 290115A, Journal 29 September, Entry 23.
76. Msg to CG, 2d French Armd Div, 79th Inf Div, 250717; Journal 25 Sep, Entry 14.
77. Tp msg from 79th Infantry Division, 251645A, Journal 25 Sep, Entry 57.
78. Tp msg from 1101st Engineer Group, 261530A, Journal 26 Sep, Entry 62.
79. Msg to 2d French Armd Div, 260710, Journal 26 Sep, Entry 15.
80. FO, 2d French Armd Div, 27 September, Journal 28 September, Entry 5.
81. Periodic Report, 2d French Armd Division, 27 September 1944, Journal 28 September, Entry 19.
82. Operations Instructions No 21, XV Corps, 290930A, Journal 29 Sep, Entry 24.

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HEADQUARTERS

XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

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+Auth: CG XV Corps+
+Date: 19 Dec 44+
+Initials: 216+
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AG 314.7 (G)

APC 436 US Army
19 December 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.
(Thru: Commanding General, Seventh Army)

In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, Change 3, and Memorandum Hq Seventh Army, file AG 314.7 Misc, dated 7 August 1944, the following report covering the operations of XV Corps during the period 1 October - 31 October, 1944, both dates inclusive, is submitted.

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

1. At the beginning of October 1944, XV Corps comprised the 79th Infantry Division, the 2d French Armored Division, the 106th Cavalry Group, and attached troops. The Corps had already been engaged for two days in clearing the FORET DE PARROY of determined enemy resistance in the zone of the 79th Infantry Division and in holding the south bank of the VEZOUSE RIVER, as well as patrolling to the south and east in the zone of the 2d French Armored Division.

2. In the FORET DE PARROY the 313th and 315th Infantry Regiments of the 79th Infantry Division had succeeded in advancing over difficult terrain and against bitter resistance about three-fourths of a mile due east through the southern edge of the forest. The combat commands of the 2d French Armored Division were disposed in depth on the Corps' right flank, holding a front following the general line: RAMBERVILLE (V1872) (excl) - ANGLEMONT (V2076) (excl) - GLONVILLE (V2286) AZERAILLES (V2388) - BENAMENIL (V2197) - THIEBAUMENIL (V1798). Along the entire front the division was in contact with the enemy by patrols. The 106th Cavalry Group patrolled the north edge of the FORET DE PARROY, and held BAUZEMONT (Q1109) to the north and HENEMENIL (Q1308) to the south of the MARNE AU RHIN Canal.

3. Thus, during the first days of October the major operation of XV Corps was the continuation of the attack in the FORET DE PARROY.

Note 1: Except where specifically indicated by footnotes, all information contained in this report is based upon XV Corps Periodic Reports for October, 1944.

Note 2: All hours are "A" hours (British Summer Time).

Report of Operations

1 - 31 October 1944

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SECTION II

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1. 1 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division resumed its attack with the mission of seizing a line from (Q167032) to (Q152064) in the FORET DE PARROY. The scheme of maneuver provided that the 314th, 313th and 315th Infantry Regiments from right to left advance abreast; the 314th Infantry attacking at 0615 and the 313th and 315th Infantry attacking at 0800.

(1) At 0615 the 314th Infantry attacked northeast from CROISMARE (Q1400) in column of battalions, the 2d Battalion leading, with the mission of cutting the main east-west road in the FORET DE PARROY just west of Hill 303, and there extending to the south the line of the 315th Infantry, then advancing east. (1) By this advance the 313th Infantry was to be pinched out and pass to Corps reserve. A 45-minute artillery preparation preceded the attack, during which XV Corps artillery fired two battalion volleys at each of 15 enemy batteries. Two area harassing missions were fired on call after the jump-off. (2) Against small arms resistance the 2d and 3d Battalions of the 314th Infantry crossed the VEZOUSE River before noon and advancing into the forest in the afternoon, made contact with one company of the 2d Battalion, 313th Infantry. The remainder of the 2d and 3d Battalions, 313th Infantry, advanced abreast of the 315th Infantry which moved on the left of the attack along the axis of the main east-west road. Although the enemy infantry resistance was lighter in all regimental zones than it had been in previous fighting in the forest, enemy artillery and mortar fire fell with increasing intensity on the 313th and 315th Infantry Regiments during the day.

b. While the 79th Infantry Division thus maneuvered to cut off the southwest corner of the forest and to destroy the enemy there, task forces of CCV of the 2d French Armored Division were heavily engaged in an attack to cut the RAMBERVILLERS - BACCARAT road in order to assist the advance of units of the VI Corps. The attack began at 0900, to secure the high ground one mile southwest of MENIL-SUR-BELVITTE (V2377) as directed by Operations Instructions No. 22, XV Corps, dated 30 September.

(1) Task Force Putz (CCV), comprising 1 company 501st Tank Battalion, 1 battery 3d R.A.C., 1 company 1st Battalion R.M.T., advancing north of the wood north of RAMBERVILLERS (V1877), took DONCIERES by 1000 and ANGLEMONT by 1045. (3) Task Force Cantarel, comprising 1 company 501st Tank Battalion, 1 battery 3d R.A.C., 1 company 1st Battalion R.M.T., at the same time moved south of the wood and made contact with Task Force Putz at about noon on the road at (V212750). Of the enemy infantry opposing the advance, 70 were killed and 100 were taken prisoner. CCV lost 4 killed and 10 wounded.

c. In addition to the counterbattery fires which preceded the attack of the 314th Infantry, XV Corps Artillery fired a battalion volley on each of fourteen enemy batteries and a TOT by three field artillery battalions on the edge of the wood in front of the 314th Infantry. Five harassing missions were fired on call of the 79th Infantry Division Artillery, and Company "B", 813th TD Battalion, fired 930 rounds on harassing missions.

Note: Numbers refer to explanatory footnotes, Inclosure No. 1 to this report.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for October 44, dtd 19 Dec 44, Cont'd.

d. The 121st Cavalry Squadron occupied BAUDEMONT and the high ground to the northeast of the town, keeping contact with the 2d Cavalry, XII Corps. The 106th Cavalry squadron held the high ground to the south and southwest of HENEMENIL, in contact on its south flank with the 315th Infantry.

e. XIX TAC supported XV Corps with two squadrons of P-47's. XII TAC did not support XV Corps during the period.

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2. 2 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division continued its attack to clear the FORET DE PARROY.

(1) The 314th Infantry, upon attacking in column of battalions, 2d Battalion leading, encountered unexpectedly heavy enemy resistance and made a slight advance only. At 1800 the enemy launched a counterattack against the 2d Battalion which was repulsed. As a result the regiment was unable to effect contact with the right of the 315th Infantry pinching out the 313th Infantry as planned. The 2d Battalion was therefore ordered to halt and hold its position for the night.

(2) The 313th and 315th Infantry Regiments during the day had advanced eastward against intermittent resistance and by night were holding a north-south line running through the crossroads at LES CINQ TRANCHEES, (Q1705).

b. In the zone of the 2d French Armored Division, the enemy counterattacked at ANGLEMONT with a battalion of infantry supported by 3 tanks and 2 armored cars. Elements of CCV holding the town were forced to withdraw one kilometer south. At 1000, however, CCV attacked and in an hour's fighting drove the enemy from ANGLEMONT, taking 30 prisoners. Late in the afternoon elements of the 117th Cavalry Squadron (VI Corps) relieved CCV at ANGLEMONT and CCV withdrew to positions to the west.

c. Fifteen counterbattery missions were fired by XV Corps Artillery and harassing missions were fired on the railroad yards at AVRICOURT (Q3206) throughout the night.

d. In accordance with Operations Instructions No. 23, XV Corps, issued 1 October, the 121st Cavalry Squadron moved south of the MARNE AU RHIN Canal on 2 October, leaving one troop with attached tank destroyers to patrol the north bank until relieved by the 2d Cavalry Group (XII Corps). The 121st Cavalry Squadron (less one troop) joined the 106th Cavalry Squadron in the vicinity of HENEMENIL.

e. XII TAC and XIX TAC supported operations of the Corps and of Army with fighter bomber sweeps over the zone. Numerous railroad facilities, including both track and equipment, were attacked with excellent results.

3. 3 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division had advanced by this time approximately three miles into the FORET DE PARROY, clearing that portion of the forest south of the east-west road through the forest, and west of the front line elements of the division. Resumption of the attack on 3 October brought the left flank of the 314th In-

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fantry abreast of the 315th Infantry. The 313th Infantry, pinched out by this move, continued to hold its position while the 314th and 315th Infantry coordinated for further attack to the east. Except for Company E, 314th Infantry, which was held up at a strongly defended road block in its zone, both regiments advanced against only intermittent resistance and by nightfall had joined their advance elements on the road along the line designated to be held for the night. (4) In the advance of the 314th Infantry, 17 prisoners were taken. (5)

b. Meanwhile, in the zone of the 2d French Armored Division, CCD maintained active patrols south of the VEZOUSE River and east of the FORET DE MONDON. Elements of CCV received some harassing artillery fire in the vicinity of GLONVILLE at 0200.

c. During the day, eleven counterbattery missions were fired by XV Corps Artillery. Harassing missions were fired also on the railroad yards at AVRICOURT with good results, and interdiction missions on roads in the vicinity of VAUCOURT (Q2308), REMONCOURT (Q2607), and EMBERMENIL (Q2304). The artillery of the 2d French Armored Division fired a TOT on 30 tanks in DOMJEVIN (V2397) during the afternoon, destroying 5 of them.

d. In the north portion of XV Corps' zone, Troop C, 121st Cavalry Squadron, and an attached company of tank destroyers moved to a position one mile northeast of BAUZEMONT. The 121st Cavalry Squadron, less Troop F, remained in HENEMEUIL, while the 106th Cavalry Squadron continued the protection of the left flank of the 79th Infantry Division from its position in the vicinity of road junction (Q150061).

e. XII and XIX Tactical Air Commands supported the operations of XV Corps and Army with fighter-bomber sweeps over the zone. Five locomotives were completely destroyed and numerous others damaged, while many boxcars were strafed and left burning. Railroad tracks and marshalling yards north of SAAREBOURG (Q4915) were attacked with good results.

4. 4 OCTOBER 1944:

a. In the zone of the 79th Infantry Division, the 2d and 3d Battalions of the 315th Infantry and the 2d Battalion of the 314th Infantry attacked at 0700 on 4 October. The enemy counterattacked with 6 tanks and infantry along the main east and west road which was the boundary between regiments.

(1) The 2d Battalion, 314th Infantry, took the brunt of the counterattack and repulsed it, destroying one Mark IV Tank. Two others withdrew, presumably to the crossroads at the Maison Forestiere du Haut de la Faite, where four tanks were reported later in the day holding up the 314th Infantry with direct fire from dug-in positions.

(2) The 315th Infantry during the afternoon was able to advance to the main north-south road, north of the crossroads at (Q171060) where the 314th had been stopped. A total advance of 300 yards was made during the day (6), and both regiments were ordered to hold their positions for the night. (7)

(3) The 313th Infantry, less the 3d Battalion, passed to division reserve, the 1st Battalion assembling at MARAINVILLER (V1699), the 2d Battalion moving to positions behind the 314th Infantry in the forest. The 3d Battalion, 315th Infantry, assembled northeast of LUNEVILLE (V0899) in Corps' reserve.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for October 1944, dtd 19 Dec 44, Cont'd.

b. The 2d French Armored Division continued to patrol, with CCR operating south of the VEZOUSE River and east of the FORET DE MONDON (where one vehicle was damaged by enemy mines placed during the night of 3-4 October at crossroads (V215940)). CCR sent a strong patrol east of ZERAILLES during the night. CCV maintained patrols in the area RAU DE BELVILLE - ROXILLE (V1677). (8)

c. XV Corps Artillery on 4 October fired sixteen counterbattery missions and a TOT on the southern tip of the FORET DE PARROY north of MARAINVILLER at 1640. Corps harassing fires combined with those of the 79th Infantry Division Artillery continued on the area until 1730. Roads leading into the forest were also covered with roadrunners and harassing fire.

d. Troop C, 121st Cavalry Squadron, with Company C, 813th TD Battalion, remained in observation one mile northeast of BAUZEMONT, while the 121st Cavalry Squadron (less Troop C) remained in HENEMENIL. The 106th Cavalry Squadron attacked the road center at (Q150061) and by outflanking action from the north at 1800, secured the objective in spite of stubborn resistance characterized by close-in fighting and strong small arms and mortar fire.

e. XII and XIX TAC were unable to furnish air support during the period because of adverse weather and visibility.

5. 5 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division continued its attack to clear the FORET DE PARROY. During the morning the 1st Battalion, 315th Infantry, moved into position to attack through and around the left flank of the 2d Battalion. At 1500, the 1st Battalion attacked as planned in column of companies, and passing to the left and through elements of the 2d Battalion crossed the north-south road in the vicinity of the crossroads at (Q171060), advancing to the southeast. The 3d Battalion, 315th Infantry, and the 2d Battalion, 314th Infantry, in the meantime contained the enemy from the south of the crossroads at (Q175045) to (Q174055).

(1) An infantry counterattack supported by four tanks at 1600, 5 October, forced the leading company of the 1st Battalion, 315th Infantry, to withdraw north of the east-west road. Another company was brought abreast and the battalion attacked and regained, less than an hour later, positions from which they could deny the use of the north-south road to the enemy.

b. Throughout the day and night the 2d French Armored Division maintained contact with the enemy in its zone by means of patrols.

c. Eight counterbattery missions and six area harassing missions were fired by XV Corps Artillery on the southern part of the FORET DE PARROY in the zone of the 314th Infantry. Two harassing missions were fired in the zone of the 315th Infantry and two road interdiction missions on the road in the southeastern portions of the FORET DE PARROY from (Q186026) to (Q187040).

d. The 106th Cavalry Group continued covering the left flank and rear of XV Corps by reconnaissance, maintaining contact with the 42d Cavalry Squadron, XII Corps.

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e. During the day the XIX TAC supported the XV Corps with 12 P-47's, engaging the following targets: 15 barges at (Q2811), canal locks at (Q5914), and 150 barges in an attack in the vicinity of (Q5414). At 1145, 24 500-pound demolition bombs were dropped on LA NEUVEVILLE-AUX-BOIS (Q2002) at the request of the 79th Infantry Division which had received reports that the town contained a large number of troops and vehicles. 25 buildings were destroyed and 25 damaged. XII TAC conducted armed and tactical flights but were unable to engage targets because of poor visibility.

6. 6 OCTOBER 1944:

a. Along the entire front of the 79th Infantry Division, patrols were active during the night of 5-6 October, reporting considerable movement of enemy track vehicles, which were heard but not seen. There was sporadic enemy artillery and mortar fire throughout the hours of darkness as well as during the day. According to plan the attack was not resumed by the 79th Infantry Division, nor was there any change in the disposition of units during the morning. Active patrolling was, however, carried out in front of the division.

(1) In the afternoon at 1430 a local counterattack on the 1st Battalion, 315th Infantry, by two tanks and supporting infantry was repulsed. One enemy tank was destroyed by bazooka fire. Later, under cover of darkness, the 1st Battalion, 315th Infantry, was withdrawn from its positions in front of the 2d and 3d Battalions to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Q167057). The 2d and 3d Battalions, 315th Infantry, held the line on the Division's left flank. (9)

b. There was no change in the disposition of troops in the line of the 2d French Armored Division. Contact was maintained with the enemy through active patrolling.

c. XV Corps Artillery fired twelve counterbattery missions and harassing missions on the road net in the vicinity of VAUCOURT, XOUSSE (Q2407), REMONCOURT, and EMBERMENIL. Enemy artillery activity was lighter than usual.

d. The 106th Cavalry Group continued operations in the north edge of the FORET DE PARROY in protection of the left flank of XV Corps.

e. XIX TAC supported XV Corps throughout the day with two squadrons of P-47 fighter-bombers. LA NEUVEVILLE, a troop concentration and supply center, was attacked with good results at 1730 and flak guns on the northeast edge of the FORET DE PARROY were also strafed and silenced. XII TAC attacked canal traffic and destroyed four barges and tugs.

7. 7 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 79th Inf Div continued its patrol activities in the FORET DE PARROY. In the morning, the 3d Battalion of the 315th Infantry on the division's left flank received a small counterattack by two tanks and infantry. Enemy artillery fire, though generally sporadic, reached concentration strength for a short time during the afternoon.

b. The 2d French Armored Division changed its previous dispositions, relieving CCR with elements of CCL. CCR then moved to the vicinity of ROXELIEURES (V0581). Some hostile artillery fire was received during this period.

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c. Corps Artillery, during 7 October, destroyed a bridge at (Q318058) and fired on a supply depot in the vicinity of AVRICOURT. In conjunction with an aerial bombing of EMBERMENIL, XV Corps Artillery assisted in neutralizing four German antiaircraft batteries.

d. The 121st Cavalry Squadron patrolled in the northern edge of the FORET DE PARROY, entering the woods just southwest of ETANG DE BASSUPRE (Q1608). The 106th Cavalry Squadron continued to protect the 79th Infantry Division's left flank.

e. Air support was given XV Corps by XIX TAC which flew forty missions during the day. 16 bombs were dropped on the supply depot at EMBERMENIL and on the bridge and approaches in the vicinity of LA CARDE. Along the MARNE AU RHIN Canal barges were bombed and strafed. XII TAC did not support XV Corps during the period.

8. 8 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division had made plans to attack east deeper into the FORET DE PARROY on 9 October and in preparation for this attack, continuous patrolling was maintained during 8 October. The entire 313th Infantry, in division reserve, assembled east of MARAINVILLER, prepared to attack on division order. At 1825 in the evening, the 2d Battalion, 314th Infantry, received a counterattack by a force of infantry supported by two tanks. This counterattack was quickly broken up by artillery fire. Prisoners taken in this encounter and those during 6 and 7 October stated that four companies of a reconnaissance battalion belonging to the 11th Panzer Division had moved into the forest from a former position in front of XII Corps. They stated further that the whole 11th Panzer Division was scheduled to move into the forest, but could not say when. (10)

b. In the zone of the 2d French Armored Division there was little activity other than patrolling.

c. XV Corps Artillery fired seven counterbattery missions. Twenty-nine harassing missions were fired on the road net to the east of the FORET DE PARROY.

d. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to protect the left flank of the 79th Infantry Division and XV Corps by patrolling. Contact was maintained with the 42d Cavalry Group of XII Corps.

e. XII TAC flew 40 missions of 395 sorties, destroying quantities of rolling stock. 12 P-47 fighter-bombers of XIX TAC dropped 24 500-pound bombs on EMBERMENIL at 1615 (in support of the 79th Infantry Division). A railroad gun and tunnel at (U923637) were attacked, as were railway targets at ST MAIRE, COLMAR, and MULHOUSE. 10 enemy aircraft were also destroyed during the day.

9. 9 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division resumed its attack to the east with regiments abreast, in the order 314th, 313th, 315th Infantry, from right to left, to seize and occupy a line from (Q195042) to (Q200052), and from (Q197054) to (Q196068) in the FORET DE PARROY (11) and with the objective gained, to patrol vigorously to the eastern and southern edges of the forest. Due to a heavy fog, the attack

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originally scheduled for 0630 ~~0630~~ 0650.

(1) The 314th Infantry in its advance encountered determined enemy opposition, especially in the zone of the 2d Battalion. However, at 0815, the 1st Battalion, attacking on the right made possible an advance by the 2d Battalion, which by noon had gained 500 yards. Thereafter, the 1st and 3d Battalions remained in place and engaged in aggressive patrolling to the southeast. The 2d Battalion, with the bulk of the 3d Battalion, 315th Infantry, continued to advance and by 1800 had cleared an enemy strongpoint at (Q176053), later assembling at (Q182-056).

(2) The 313th Infantry attacked on division order at 0935 employing its 1st Battalion, supported by tanks in a planned diversion in the vicinity of MARAINVILIER. The remainder of the regiment continued east to its objective at (Q195042) - (Q200052) which was seized by the 2d Battalion at 1410, while the 3d Battalion established road blocks to protect the south flank of the division along the line (Q173048) - (Q199046).

(3) The 315th Infantry on the division left flank, with the 3d, 2d and 1st Battalions echeloned to the left rear, advanced slowly, receiving intense small arms fire and fire from direct support weapons, particularly in the zone of the 3d Battalion. In the meantime, the 2d Battalion, encountering less resistance, was able to advance more rapidly and covered nearly 1200 yards by noon.

(4) By the end of the day, all units of the 79th Infantry Division had gained their objectives after fighting which had proved especially heavy in the zone of the 315th Infantry. Four enemy tanks were destroyed during the attack.

b. The 2d French Armored Division continued to probe the enemy in its zone, receiving sporadic artillery fire. CCD patrolled south of the VEZOUSE River and east of the FORET DE MONDON. (CCI and CCV reported no contact with the enemy, and no change in position).

c. XV Corps Artillery was very active firing in support of the 79th Infantry Division attack. Twenty-nine counterbattery missions were fired. Harassing missions were fired on the road net PARROY - XOUSSE - VAUCOURT - EMBERMENIL.

d. On the north flank of the 79th Infantry Division, the 106th Cavalry Group advanced to the line: (Q158082) - (Q165077) - (Q161072) against determined resistance centered around an enemy strongpoint on the north edge of the wood. In the vicinity of (Q165076), elements of the 121st Cavalry Squadron encountered numerous "S" mines, Teller mines, and booby traps.

e. XIX and XII TAC were unable to furnish air support during the period because of adverse weather conditions.

10. 10 OCTOBER 1944:

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a. During the night of 9-10 October the 79th Infantry Division completed the organization of its position within the FORET DE PARROY and actively patrolled the area, two patrols reaching the southeast edge of the wood at (Q213047) and (Q202-037). Sporadic artillery fire was received during the night. No organized resistance was reported during the day.

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(1) The 1st and 3d Battalions of the 314th Infantry advanced, reaching the lines: (Q181021) - (Q178012) - (Q172007) and (Q182034) - (Q186038) - (Q185021), respectively. At 1643 contact was established with the 106th Cavalry Group in the vicinity of (Q167072). (12)

(2) There was no change in the dispositions of the 313th and 315th Infantry.

b. The 2d French Armored Division maintained patrols west of BACCARAT and south of the MEURTHE RIVER and the VEZOUSE RIVER and east of the FORET DE MONDON. MANONVILLER and the ridge 600 yards northwest of it were both cleared of the enemy but elements of CCD encountered enemy combat patrols southwest of BURIVILLE (V2493). The further advance of these patrols was stopped. During the day, artillery fire fell on KAFFEVILLERS (V1679).

c. XV Corps Artillery fired nine counterbattery missions and harassing missions in the vicinity of XOUSSE - MOUSSEY (Q2908) - VANCOURT - REMONCOURT - and BLEMERY (V2698).

d. The 106th Cavalry Group continued the protection of the left flank of the 79th Infantry Division and maintained patrol activities north, east and south of RJ (Q166077).

e. XIX and XII TAC were unable to furnish air support during the period because of adverse weather conditions.

11. 11 OCTOBER 1944:

a. All elements of the 79th Infantry Division were engaged in aggressive patrolling during the morning of 11 October.

(1) In the afternoon, at 1445, the 314th Infantry on the right and the 313th Infantry on the left, advanced east and southeast through the FORET DE PARROY meeting with little opposition in the zone of the 313th Infantry. The 314th Infantry however, received artillery fire as it approached FORT DE MONONVILLER (13), which at 1400 a liaison plane reported as containing no sign of enemy activity. The fort being declared clear of enemy by 1700, both regiments advanced, reaching the general line: (V211985) - (Q208014) - (Q200030) - (Q199053), including LANEVEUILLE-AUX-BOIS and FORT MANONVILLER, by 1800.

(2) Throughout the day the 315th Infantry maintained its position on the division left flank from (Q198055) to (Q196068) patrolling north and northeast through the FORET DE PARROY, but encountered no enemy.

b. In the zone of the 2d French Armored Division, active patrolling was carried out during the day along the entire division front. On the right flank, elements of the 2d French Armored Division maintained contact with the 117th Cavalry Squadron of VI Corps. The left, or west, boundary of the 2d French Armored Division was changed, effective 111405 from the intersection of the then left boundary and Route Nationale No. 4 east to THIEBAUMENIL (to the 79th Infantry Division), thence north to the VEZOUSE RIVER, thence east along the VEZOUSE as formerly. (14)

c. XV Corps fired no unobserved counterbattery missions during the period. During the night of 11 October the 772d Field Artillery Battalion fired on the road between REPAIX (Q3301) - IGNEY (Q3204), and the road junction in the vicinity of AVRICOURT (Q3106).

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d. The 106th Cavalry Group remained disposed to cover the northeast of the FORET DE PARROY, the 121st Squadron and the 106th Squadron having been withdrawn at 1700 to the vicinity of (Q0605) for maintenance.

(1) Elements of the 121st Cavalry Squadron, the CP of which was located at EINVILLE, made contact at PARROY with elements of the 2d Cavalry (XII Corps), which occupied the high ground at (Q170100). (15) At 1000, the 121st Cavalry Squadron advanced east on MOUACOURT encountering no opposition other than a few rounds of mortar fire south of MOUACOURT during the afternoon. All roads from the north except the one from XURES to VAUCOURT were cut by the 106th Cavalry Group, which was in the vicinity of (Q061042). (16)

e. XII TAC supported Seventh Army and XV Corps with fighter-bombers, flying 19 missions of 195 sorties on the Army front. Rail facilities and roads in the vicinity of NITTING (Q4907) were attacked. XIX TAC supported XV Corps with 12 P-47's. Nine light guns were silenced at (Q0262) on request of the 79th Infantry Division.

12. 12 OCTOBER 1944:

a. During the morning elements of the 79th Infantry Division made little contact with the enemy. Active patrolling was conducted along the entire division front to the east, throughout the FORET DE PARROY and to the south of the forest. Patrols of the 313th Infantry reached the BOIS LES BOULEAUX and the BOIS DE ST DIE without encountering resistance, nor was any activity observed in EMBERMENIL other than vehicles left burning from an air attack earlier in the morning. (17) Reconnaissance troops of the 79th Infantry Division, patrolling to the southeast, reached the outskirts of DOMJEVIN from which they were forced to withdraw because of enemy small arms and artillery fire from the vicinity of ST MARTIN. (18)

(1) By the end of the afternoon the 313th Infantry had advanced in its zone toward the high ground northeast of LANEUVEVILLE and the 314th Infantry had reached the line: (V178975) - (V117996) - (Q119009) - (Q112015), encountering only slight resistance during its advance. By 1800, the 315th Infantry, less the 1st Battalion, assembled in division reserve in the vicinity of (V092988). The 1st Battalion, 315th Infantry, protected the left flank of the division. Intermittent enemy artillery fire was reported by all units of the 79th Infantry Division during the day.

b. The 2d French Armored Division continued patrolling on the right flank of XV Corps, elements of CCV maintaining contact with the 117th Cavalry Squadron (VI Corps) to the south. CCL drove out an enemy patrol which had infiltrated southeast of the FORET DE MONDON, and CCD covered the front northeast and east of the FORET DE MONDON. (19)

c. On this day the advance detachment of the 44th Infantry Division, comprising a representative of each staff section, each regiment, and each special unit, under the command of Brig. Gen. Wm. Dean, closed in CHARLES. The 44th Infantry Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. R. L. Spragins, and assembled at the time in an area north of MONTBURG, MANCHE, had been tentatively assigned to XV Corps.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired twelve counterbattery missions and a TOT by three battalions on an enemy CP at IGNEY. Two enemy antiaircraft batteries were neutralized by the 989th Field Artillery Battalion and harassing missions were fired during the night on DOMJEVIN, IGNEY, REPAIX and REMONCOURT.

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e. The 106th Cavalry Squadron continued maintenance in the vicinity of DEUX-VILLE while Troops B and C, 121st Cavalry Squadron, patrolled east of MOUACOURT to the XURES-VAUCOURT road.

f. XIX TAC supported XV Corps with 12 fighter-bombers which destroyed several enemy artillery pieces and flak guns.

13. 13 OCTOBER 1944:

a. During the morning of 13 October the 79th Reconnaissance Troop relieved the 1st Battalion of the 315th Infantry at (V198056), the latter moving to (V193034). At 1300 the 79th Infantry Division continued the attack to secure the division objective a line running north from DOLJEVIN, touching the REMABOIS wood (250030), thence north to (425050), and thence northwest to (225070). Orders to attack, seize, and hold this objective were given to the Commanding General, 79th Infantry Division, by telephone at 130925 October. Written confirmation was contained in Operations Instructions No. 25, XV Corps, issued later in the day.

(1) The 2d Battalion, 315th Infantry, relieved the 1st Battalion, 314th Infantry, at approximately 1200 and maintained contact with the right flank of the 1st Battalion, 314th Infantry, as it advanced. The 1st Battalion, 315th Infantry, remained in the vicinity of (V190035), the 3d Battalion at (V187998) in division reserve.

(2) The 314th Infantry, with its 1st and 3d Battalions from right to left, advanced against light resistance receiving small arms, mortar and artillery fire and by 1800 captured the high ground south of EMBERMENIL. The 314th Infantry advance continued against stubborn resistance on its left flank from the railroad station at (Q238028) and the high ground at (Q240023). At the end of the day the 1st and 3d Battalions, 314th Infantry, were on the division objective.

(3) The 313th Infantry with 1st and 3d Battalions from right to left, advanced against moderate resistance and at approximately 1700 captured EMBERMENIL which was stubbornly defended with antitank weapons and small arms. Prior to the day's end, the advance halted for the night with elements of the 1st Battalion, 313th Infantry, northeast of EMBERMENIL, and elements of the 3d Battalion, 313th Infantry, on the eastern edge of the BOIS DU HAUT DE CORBE.

(4) The 79th Reconnaissance Troop encountered artillery and mortar fire and except for patrols was unable to advance beyond the edge of the forest at (Q218069).

b. The 2d French Armored Division continued patrolling in its zone with CCD operating to the northeast and east of the FORET DE MONDON. The division received some hostile artillery fire at MENIL FLIN between 0505 and 0556. CCL felt out the area southwest of BACCARAT and south of the MEURTHE in the vicinity of AZERAILLES. GLONVILLE and FONTENCY LA JOUTE (V2084) were shelled by enemy artillery and a German patrol trying to enter GLONVILLE was driven away. CCV retained contact with elements of the 117th Cavalry Squadron on the south flank. (20)

c. Throughout the attack by the 79th Infantry Division, XV Corps Artillery was very active, placing harassing fire on the woods west of LEINTREY (Q2603) from 1330 to 1340, and followed with a counterbattery program on eleven enemy batteries.

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A TOT was fired by five battalions on an enemy CP at IGNEY (Q3204) at 1305. Six enemy batteries were located by air OP and neutralized.

d. The 106th Cavalry Squadron continued its advance in the vicinity of DEUX-VILLE while the 121st Cavalry Squadron reconnoitered to the east edge of the FORET DE PARROY. Troop B maintained contact with the 42d Cavalry Squadron at MOUACOURT.

e. The 115th AAA Gun Battalion during the period reported and engaged one enemy aircraft, firing 12 rounds of 90mm.

f. Adverse weather conditions limited air operations in the zone of XV Corps. XIX TAC only supported XV Corps with an armed reconnaissance mission, attacking gun positions in the vicinity of REILLON (Q2600).

14. 14 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division continued the attack to capture that portion of the division objective still held by the enemy. The 313th Infantry and 3d Battalion, 314th Infantry, attacked at 0900 against determined enemy resistance, drawing heavy fire from wired and dug-in enemy positions along the entire front and only small gains were made. The enemy force was forced to withdraw from his strongpoint at the railroad station (Q237027). The 2d Battalion, 313th Infantry, supported by tanks and tank destroyers, renewed the attack at 1510 along the ridge running east to (Q232061) where intense enemy fires and a heavily mined area halted the attack. Two tanks were lost from mines and antitank fire. Intense mortar and artillery fire compelled the battalion to withdraw to the edge of the wood at (Q221058). Meanwhile, the 2d Battalion, 315th Infantry, on the Corps' objective remained in place; the 3d Battalion continuing in division reserve and 1st Battalion protecting the left flank of the division.

b. In the zone of the 2d French Armored Division, CCR reported no contact with the enemy during the day. CCD continued active patrolling to the northeast and east of the FORET DE MONDON. CCL patrolled southwest of BACCARAT and south of LA MEURTHE, receiving artillery fire from west and northwest of FONTENOY LA JOUTE. CCV dispatched patrols to XAFFEVIILLER-SUR-MENARMONT where they received fire from automatic weapons. MENARMONT (V1980) was later reported clear of enemy, who withdrew to the edges of the forest north of the town. (21).

c. The Corps Artillery fired on nine enemy batteries which were located and adjusted on by air OP. Counterbattery missions on 8 enemy batteries and protective fires for the attack of the 79th Infantry Division, as well as five additional counterbattery missions for the division, were fired during the evening and night of 14 October. The 144th Field Artillery Group moved to the vicinity of ST CLEMENT (V1693).

d. During the period, the 106th Cavalry Group's operations consisted of limited objective patrols to the general north-south line along the 315 Y grid line. The 106th Cavalry Squadron relieved the 121st Cavalry Squadron in its zone commencing about 1000 and completing the relief about 1600. No enemy action occurred in the zone of the Corps cavalry and liaison between the 106th Cavalry Squadron and the 42d Cavalry Squadron (XII Corps) was maintained.

e. During the period two enemy aircraft were reported and engaged by the 118th AAA Gun Battalion, resulting in one aircraft destroyed and one damaged. The 214th AAA Gun Battalion, on secondary missions, fired 97 rounds on ground targets.

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f. The XIX TAC furnishing column cover, dropped 16 bombs on the wooded area in the vicinity of (V290890) and strafed in support of the 2d French Armored Division. Armed reconnaissance was flown in the area of (V290875); 8 vehicles were attacked and destroyed in the vicinity of IGNEY, 12 vehicles in the vicinity of (Q298088), 8 vehicles in the vicinity of (Q320158), and 9 tanks were strafed in the vicinity of (Q442179), two being destroyed and 7 damaged. XII TAC strafed and set on fire 4 enemy tanks in the vicinity of (Q460180).

15. 15 OCTOBER 1944:

a. There was no change in the disposition of elements of the 79th Infantry Division. The 315th, 314th and 313th Infantry Regiments, from right to left, patrolled actively to their fronts. (22) An attack by the enemy advancing in two columns on the right flank of the 313th Infantry in the zone of the 2d Battalion was broken up by artillery fire at 0545. Fifteen minutes later the 3d Battalion of the 314th Infantry was attacked by infantry supported by one Mark IV tank, but the attack failed and the tank was destroyed by Company B, 749th Tank Battalion. Mortar and artillery fire was received throughout the entire period. Nebelwerfer fire was received during the night.

b. The 2d French Armored Division continued patrolling east of the FORET DE MONDON and southwest of BACCARAT (V2584), maintaining contact with the 117th Cavalry Group (VI Corps) to the south. Enemy artillery fire fell upon MENIL FLIN (V2089), GLONVILLE and FONTENOY LA JOUTE. (23)

c. Corps Artillery fired twelve counterbattery and fourteen harassing missions on the woods in the vicinity of (Q2609). Five missions were fired upon enemy vehicles.

d. To the north of the 79th Infantry Division, the 106th Cavalry Group patrolled east to the vicinity of (V2209).

e. During this period the 23d Antiaircraft Artillery Group reported, engaged and tracked to zero elevation, one unidentified aircraft over the Corps zone. The group fired 59 rounds against ground targets on its secondary mission.

f. XIX TAC supported XV Corps with one squadron of P-47 fighter-bombers. As division air support parties had no profitable targets on their front, planes continued on the secondary mission of bombing and strafing hostile rolling stock. XII TAC made no flights in support of XV Corps during the period.

16. 16 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The dispositions of the 79th Infantry Division remained substantially unchanged.

(1) The 3d Battalion of the 314th Infantry in the center of the 79th Infantry Division's zone received intensive artillery and small arms fire during the early hours of the morning. Following this fire the 1st Battalion of the 111th Panzer Grenadier Regiment of the 11th Panzer Division, supported by 9 tanks (estimated) attacked and penetrated the front of the 3d Battalion, 314th Infantry, at 0500 south of EMBERMENIL, in the vicinity of the railroad station and the high ground at (Q2303). (24) A counterattack by the 2d Battalion, 314th Infantry, at 0930 restored the line and took 47 prisoners. One tank of the 749th Tank Battalion was damaged by mines during this engagement.

(2) The 1st Battalion of the 315th Infantry closed at 1125 in an area in the vicinity of (Q185013) in division reserve.

b. There was no change in the dispositions of the 2d French Armored Division during the day. Patrolling to the east was continued in the vicinity of the FORET DE MONDON and southwest of BACCARAT. CCL drove away an enemy patrol seeking to enter GLONVILLE, and shelled AZERAILLES with mortar fire.

(1) Enemy artillery was very active along the entire front of the 2d French Armored Division, with particular attention being given to MENIL-FLIN, BENAMENIL, GLONVILLE, CHEMEVIERES (V1891) and the road between FLIN (V2089) and MERVILLER (V2987). (25)

c. XV Corps Artillery fired twelve counterbattery missions during daylight and thirteen counterbattery missions during the night. Three TOT missions were fired on roads at (Q2403) using three battalions (one volley) plus antiaircraft and six area harassing missions in the area of expected counterattacks. Air OP located and adjusted neutralization fires on five enemy batteries.

d. There was no change in the dispositions of the 106th Cavalry Group which continued patrolling to the east between the RHIN AU MARNE Canal and the FORET DE PARROY.

e. XII and XIX TAC were unable to support XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions.

17. 17 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division maintained its positions without major adjustments.

(1) At 0320 the enemy attacked the 3d Battalion, 314th Infantry and Co G, 314th Infantry with infantry supported by tanks or self-propelled guns, preceded by artillery fire. A normal artillery barrage failed to stop the enemy and Co G's positions were penetrated slightly. However, the enemy tanks or self-propelled guns withdrew prior to daylight, when Company F, 314th Infantry, supported by tanks, counterattacked. By 0800, Company G had regained its former positions. Later the enemy was found dug in approximately 200 yards in front of Company G and after mortar and artillery fire was placed upon them, 48 prisoners were taken.

(2) The 1st Battalion, 313th Infantry, was attacked at 0320 by infantry following enemy artillery fire but artillery and mortar fire forced their withdrawal before the attack reached our positions. Sporadic enemy artillery fire was received throughout the day and active patrolling to the front continued.

b. There was no change in the dispositions of the 2d French Armored Division on this date. The division continued patrolling to the east.

c. The 44th Infantry Division was attached to XV Corps at 171200 per VOGG, Seventh Army and closed in its assembly area west of LUNEVILLE (V0799) at 1710. It was the desire of the Commanding General XV Corps that this newly-arrived division be gradually acclimated to combat conditions by relieving elements of the 79th Infantry Division with like elements of the 44th Infantry Division over a period of five days. Command was to pass to the Commanding General 44th Infantry Division only after the greater part of the 44th Infantry Division had relieved the 79th Infantry Division in position.

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(1) To accomplish this purpose, Operations Instructions No. 26, XV Corps, issued on 17 October, provided for the successive relief of elements of the 79th Infantry Division in the line by elements of the 44th Infantry Division. This relief made the 79th Infantry Division available for a limited objective attack to improve its position and to secure certain essential observation.

(2) As directed by Operations Instructions No. 26, one RCT of the 44th Infantry Division (RCT 114) was attached to the 79th Infantry Division at 1500, at which time it was already on its way to an assembly area in the vicinity of CROISMARE (Q1302). This RCT was to remain in the CROISMARE area during 18 October, and then relieve units of the 79th Infantry Division in position between the VEZOUSE River and the LUNEVILLE-AVRICOURT railway on the night of 19-20 October, the relief to be completed before daylight. The Commanding General XV Corps directed that this RCT be so placed as to minimize the probability of its becoming involved in any action involving the right elements of the 79th Infantry Division. This same Operation Instructions attached the 44th Infantry Division Artillery to the 79th Infantry Division, effective at 1500.

d. The Corps Artillery fired twenty-three counterbattery missions. Three protective fires were fired on call of the 79th Infantry Division on the road at (Q236013) at 0155, 0215 and 0255.

e. Patrols of the 106th Cavalry Group were active as far north as (Q182100) and as far east as (Q212098). Troop B, 121st Cavalry Squadron, moved to HENAMENIL (Q1308). Troop, B, 106th Cavalry Squadron moved to MOUACOURT (Q1808). The 44th Reconnaissance Troop was attached to the 106th Cavalry Group at 1500, and directed to relieve the 79th Reconnaissance Troop prior to daylight, 19 October. (26)

f. XII and XIX TAC were unable to support XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions.

18. 18 OCTOBER 1944:

a. (1) The 79th Infantry Division continued to maintain its positions. Enemy patrols became active along the fronts of the 313th and 314th Infantry Regiments shortly after midnight.

(2) The 1st Battalion, 313th Infantry, was engaged in a small arms fire fight at 0200 which was broken up by a normal artillery barrage. (27)

(3) The 3d Battalion, 314th Infantry, was attacked by the 3d Company of the 1120th Regiment supported by 5 tanks at 0210. (28) This attack was repulsed by artillery fire.

(4) The 114th Infantry (attached from the 44th Infantry Division) closed at 0200 in its assembly area north and northwest of CROISMARE (Q1302). At 1900 the 114th Infantry moved to a new assembly area west of MANONVILLIER, closing at 2400. The 71st Infantry, (44th Infantry Division) was attached to the 79th Infantry Division and at 2100 began movement to the area near CROISMARE vacated by the 114th Infantry.

b. The three combat commands of the 2d French Armored Division maintained patrolling in their zones with special activity in southwest of BACCARAT and east of the FORET DE MONDON. (29) GLONVILLE, FONTENOY-LA-JOUE, MENIL-FLIN, CHENEVIERES and ST CLEMENT received enemy artillery fire. CCI reported AZERAILLES evacuated

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by the enemy.

c. There was no change in the activities or disposition of the 44th Infantry Division (less units released ~~from the 44th Infantry Division~~).

d. Corps Artillery fired eight counterbattery missions during the day together with two neutralization and one road interdiction mission. No firing was done by Corps Artillery during the night. The 44th Infantry Division Artillery was in position and registered by 1800.

e. The 121st Cavalry Squadron relieved the 106th Cavalry Squadron in position by 1600. Patrolling to the east continued.

f. XII and XIX TAC were unable to support XV Corps during the day because of adverse weather conditions. Night fighters flew on the deck in zone during the night of 18-19 October.

19. 19 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division continued active patrolling along the entire front throughout the day, receiving a marked decrease in the amount of artillery fire.

(1) Elements of the 1st Battalion, 313th Infantry, occupied the ridge at (Q240034) at 1820.

(2) The 114th Infantry (attached from the 44th Infantry Division) had closed in an area east of THIEBAUMENIL at 0300 and under cover of darkness effected the relief of the 2d Battalion, 315th Infantry, at 2135 and relieved the 1st Battalion, 314th Infantry, at 2225.

(3) The 71st Infantry (attached from the 44th Infantry Division) closed in an assembly area northeast of LA NEUVEVILLE (Q200020).

(4) The 324th Infantry (44th Infantry Division) which was attached to the 79th Infantry Division, commenced movement at 1900 to the area northwest of CROISMARE vacated by the 71st Infantry. The three infantry regiments of the 44th Infantry Division were, by this movement, in the process of the gradual relief of the 79th Infantry Division prescribed by Operations Instructions No. 26, XV Corps, 17 October.

(5) Meanwhile, the 79th Reconnaissance Troop moved to the division assembly area in the vicinity of HAUSSEVILLE (Q9693) after having been relieved by the 44th Reconnaissance Troop at 1230.

b. There was no change in dispositions of the 2d French Armored Division on this date. Sporadic enemy artillery fire continued throughout the day.

c. The 44th Infantry Division released the 324th Infantry for attachment to the 79th Infantry Division. The 324th Infantry moved out of the division assembly area. Otherwise there was no change.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired five counterbattery missions. Two battalions fired on enemy vehicles along the road at (Q312039) with good results.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Oct, 44, dtd 19 Dec 44, Cont'd.

e. Patrols of the 121st Cavalry Squadron remained active, operating as far east as (Q210099). The 106th Cavalry Squadron was held in reserve in the vicinity of EINVILLE (Q080070).

f. At 1615, 16 aircraft attacked the town of LEINTREY (Q2603) with excellent results. Upon completion of the bombing, planes strafed enemy troops and vehicles in the vicinity of the town. Tanks were reported in the woods at (V250990) and 6 bombs were dropped on that area with unobserved results.

20. 20 OCTOBER 1944:

a. In the zone of the 79th Infantry Division, the 315th Infantry completed its relief of the 1st Battalion, 313th Infantry, at midnight on the night of October 19-20. The 313th, 314th and 315th Infantry Regiments patrolled actively to their fronts during the period, receiving light artillery and mortar fire during the morning. Throughout the afternoon and night, increased artillery fire fell upon the 313th and 315th Infantry.

(1) The 71st Infantry and 324th Infantry, attached from the 44th Infantry Division, closed in an area northeast of LANEUVILLE.

(2) The 79th Infantry Division, less attached regiments from the 44th Infantry Division, prepared to attack east on the morning of 21 October.

b. The 2d French Armored Division continued the patrolling of its zone and the protection of the right flank of XV Corps, maintaining contact with the 117th Cavalry Squadron. GLONVILLE was heavily shelled by the enemy during this period.

c. There was no change in the disposition of the 44th Infantry Division, less detachments.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired one unobserved and six observed counterbattery missions.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group patrolled the east edge of the FORET DE PARROY from (Q210098) to (Q213083).

f. XIX TAC supported XV Corps, dropping 24 500-pound bombs on XOUSSE and 24 500-pound bombs on LEINTREY. One squadron bombed troops, vehicles and supplies in AMENCOURT where many fires were started. Air observation confirmed that VEHO had been destroyed by bombing on 19 October. XII TAC made no flights in support of XV Corps during the period.

21. 21 OCTOBER 1944:

a. On the morning of 21 October, the 79th Infantry Division attacked east as directed by XV Corps Operations Instructions No. 26. The mission of the division was to seize and secure the line: DOMJEVIN - the edge of LE REMABOIS woods (250-030), thence north to (425050) and thence northwest to (225070) as first indicated in Operations Instructions No. 25 and later clarified in Operations Instructions No. 28, XV Corps, 18 October.

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(1) The three regiments of the 79th Infantry Division attacked abreast at 0636, from right to left; the ~~314th Infantry~~ in column of battalions, the 315th Infantry with its 1st and 3d Battalions abreast, the 313th with two battalions abreast and the third following. The resistance was moderate, consisting of light small arms and considerable mortar fire. Leading elements of the 314th and 313th Infantry, and of the 1st Battalion, 315th Infantry, were on the objective prior to 0900. The 3d Battalion, 315th Infantry, initially held up by enemy dug-in positions on B. HENRY Ridge (Q240033), was able to continue when the 2d Battalion was thrown in to clear the ridge. The 3d Battalion reached its objective by 1400. The 1st Battalion, 315th Infantry, and the 2d Battalion, 315th Infantry, had difficulty in establishing contact on the objective due to enemy tanks between the two positions; the tanks were eventually driven out or destroyed. During the attack 12 tanks of the 749th Tank Battalion were temporarily immobilized (3 due to antitank or tank fire; 5 due to mines; 4 bogged down), 3 tank destroyers of the 813th TD Battalion were lost due to enemy action, and 5 bogged down in the deep mud. Two enemy tanks were destroyed in the zone of the 315th Infantry and one probably destroyed in the zone of the 313th Infantry.

b. The 2d French Armored Division patrolled west of BACCARAT and along the east edge of the FORET DE MONDON continuing its protection of the right flank of XV Corps.

c. There was no change in the disposition of the 44th Infantry Division, less detachments.

d. Forty counterbattery missions were fired by Corps Artillery during the day, thirteen of the missions being observed and results being reported as good. Prepared fires were delivered in support of the 79th Infantry Division's attack. The 182d Field Artillery Battalion moved to the vicinity of LANEUVEVILLE (Q2002).

e. The 121st Cavalry Squadron was unable to advance because of intense artillery fire and mines. Patrols reached (Q210978), encountering barbed wire, booby traps and mines. Patrols of the 44th Infantry Division's reconnaissance troop reached a hill at (Q223072) but were forced by artillery and mortar fire to withdraw.

f. XIX TAC flew only one mission because of bad weather. 15 motor transports were strafed and destroyed at (Q2908). 2 Mark IV tanks were damaged at (Q2707). XII TAC did not support XV Corps during the period.

22. . 22 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division consolidated and improved its positions throughout this period. At 0505 an enemy infantry attack supported by 3 tanks in the vicinity of (Q235061) failed to penetrate positions of the 313th Infantry. The 2d Battalion, 315th Infantry (less Company F), encountered strong resistance, and at least 1 enemy tank, as the battalion moved north to close the gap between the 315th Infantry and the 313th Infantry. Prior to 1730 the gap was closed and the 2d Battalion, 315th Infantry (less Company F, plus Company B) reverted to division reserve in the vicinity of (Q238042). Enemy artillery fire fell throughout the day, with extremely heavy concentrations being received by the 314th and 315th Infantry about 1750 in the area along the railroad tracks, and in the vicinity of EMBERMENIL (Q230030).

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Oct 44, dtd 19 Dec 44, Cont'd.

(1) The 3d Battalion, 71st Infantry, moved to the vicinity of (Q22010), the 2d Battalion to (Q223023), and the 1st Battalion to (Q202013).

(2) The 324th Infantry closed in areas as follows: 1st Battalion (Q187-023), 2d Battalion (Q191018), and 3d Battalion (Q197023).

b. The 2d French Armored Division patrolled areas east of the FORET DE MONDON and southeast of BACCARAT and continued protection of the right flank of XV Corps.

c. There was no change in the disposition of the 44th Infantry Division, less detachments.

d. Fifty-seven counterbattery missions were fired on this date by Corps Artillery which, with the 2d French Armored Division Artillery, also fired 500 rounds of 105mm Howitzer, 50 rounds of 155mm Howitzer, and 50 rounds of 155mm Gun, during the period 1400 to 1600 in the BACCARAT area to create a diversion in conjunction with the attack of VI Corps.

e. Patrols of the 121st Cavalry Squadron were active as far east as (Q220078) while the 106th Cavalry Squadron remained in reserve in the vicinity of EINVILLE.

f. XIX TAC supported the Corps with one squadron of the 405th Group during the day, scoring five direct hits on railroad tracks at (Q310056) and the destruction of two heavy flak guns at (Q350040). Three planes of the group were destroyed by enemy antiaircraft artillery. XII TAC did not support XV Corps during the period.

23. 23 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division continued improving its positions, concurrent with the relief of additional units by elements of the 44th Infantry Division.

(1) At 0620 the 2d Battalion, 313th Infantry, received an attack followed by another at 0700 against the 1st Battalion. Both attacks, estimated at one battalion of infantry each, were preceded by artillery concentrations. Two of three enemy tanks accompanied by foot troops advancing against the 315th Infantry at 0730 were destroyed and the attack was broken up by artillery fire. An attack at 1230 against Company I, 313th Infantry, was also repulsed by artillery fire. Another attack at 1355 by approximately one hundred infantrymen, accompanied by four tanks struck between the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 315th Infantry; our troops held their ground and by 1500 the attack was repulsed.

(2) The 2d and 3d Battalions, 71st Infantry, relieved the 2d and 3d Battalions, 314th Infantry, on the line at 1815.

(3) Eight enemy tanks were destroyed during the day, six by tank destroyers and two by antitank and artillery fire.

b. Patrols from the 2d French Armored Division in the area east of the FORET DE MONDON received considerable small arms fire. The division also patrolled actively southwest of BACCARAT.

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c. There was no change in the disposition of the 44th Infantry Division, less detachments.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired thirty-five unobserved counterbattery missions during the day. The 961st Field Artillery Battalion fired on four tanks, destroying one and crippling one, which was subsequently knocked out by the tank destroyers.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group covered the left flank of the Corps and maintained contact with the XII Corps Cavalry in the vicinity of MOUACOURT (Q185095).

(1) The 106th Cavalry Squadron relieved the 121st Cavalry Squadron in the vicinity of (Q225072). The latter squadron reverted to group reserve in the vicinity of EINVILLE (Q0806). Aggressive patrols maintained close contact with the enemy in the vicinity of (Q225072), Q221073) and (Q220078).

(2) Operations Instructions No. 82, XV Corps, was published defining the new boundary between the 44th Infantry Division and the 106th Cavalry Group as follows: (Q200055) - (Q218069) - (Q253080).

f. No air support missions were flown because of bad weather.

24. 24 OCTOBER 1944.

a. Front line positions in the zone of the 79th Infantry Division remained unchanged; the relief of the 79th Infantry Division by the 44th Infantry Division was completed during this period. Considerable enemy activity was reported on the front of the 313th, 314th and 315th Infantry Regiments in the early morning. At 0615 enemy artillery fire began falling in the 315th Infantry's zone and tanks and infantry were observed preparing to attack, but our artillery fire delayed the attack until 0815. At that time the German tanks and infantry advanced. By 0845 the enemy attack had driven Company F (attached to the 1st Battalion) and Company C off the high ground in the 1st Battalion's zone. Company G supported by tanks counterattacked and by 1145 had reoccupied the positions formerly held by Company C.

b. At 1200, Major General R. L. Spragins, Commanding General of the 44th Infantry Division, assumed command of the left portion of XV Corps' zone, formerly occupied by the 79th Infantry Division. By 1230 the 324th Infantry had relieved the 313th Infantry, 315th Infantry, and the 1st Battalion of the 314th Infantry in the Division zone.

(1) The dispositions of the battalions of the 44th Infantry Division in the line from right to left, upon having completed the relief of the 79th Infantry Division, were as follows: The 1st and 3d Battalions, 114th Infantry; 2d and 3d Battalions, 71st Infantry; and 1st and 2d Battalions, 324th Infantry. The Division command post was located at CROISMARE (Q1302).

(2) Units of the 79th Infantry Division (less two light artillery battalions which remained to support the 44th Infantry Division, and the 2d and 3d Battalions, 314th Infantry) began to assemble preparatory to moving to the 79th Infantry Division's rest area southwest of LUNEVILLE. (30)

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Oct 44, dtd 19 Dec 44, Cont'd.

c. The 2d French Armored Division patrolled in the area southeast of BACCARAT and east and southeast of the FORET DE MONDON. The division was directed by Operations Instructions No. 33, XV Corps, 24 October to remove all mines from the concentration area assigned the 79th Infantry Division by daylight, 30 October, and to protect Corps Engineers buildings roads in the area. (31)

d. XV Corps Artillery fired forty-six counterbattery missions during the period. Two road-runners, each of five battalion volleys, were fired on the road IGNEY (Q230040) to REPAIX (Q3301) at 2245 and 2255.

e. The 106th Cavalry Squadron moved generally south in the FORET DE PARROY to positions along the line: (Q217066) - (Q206081). Patrols were sent against enemy positions on hills at (Q221073) and (Q220078). Elements of the 121st Cavalry Squadron maintained contact with XII Corps in the vicinity of MOUACOURT (Q180090). The 44th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop reverted to division control at 1200.

f. From 2041 to 2057 approximately 5 unidentified aircraft were reported. Two aircraft violated the IAZ and were engaged with 159 rounds of 90mm, but no claims were reported. Three unidentified aircraft were reported at 0124 but were not engaged.

g. XV Corps received no close-in air support during the period, because of adverse weather.

25. 25 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The disposition of the 44th Infantry Division remained unchanged. There was considerable enemy shelling of the 114th Infantry's position and in the 44th Infantry Division's rear areas during the early morning. Small skirmishes took place along the 71st Infantry's front at 0620 and at daybreak five enemy tanks accompanied by infantry were observed advancing towards the 324th Infantry. This formation was broken up by artillery fire before reaching our positions. Active patrolling continued along the entire front throughout the day, contact being maintained closely with the enemy. After a brief fire fight at 1430, 17 prisoners were taken at road junction (Q234062); in the vicinity of (Q253028) at 1630 another enemy patrol of 21 men was engaged and 16 of its number killed by rifle fire.

(1) An enemy force of unknown strength consisting of infantry supported by tanks attacked and penetrated the positions of the 324th Infantry in the zone of the 1st Battalion at 1845 and was successful in surrounding one company. This company was freed when a reserve company was committed and the line restored at 2115. The enemy resumed the attack at 2345 from (Q234062) to the hill at (Q229061) with four or five tanks supported by an infantry force of unknown strength. This attack was repulsed.

b. All units of the 79th Infantry Division closed in the division's rest area during 25 October, completing the movement by 1630.

c. The 2d French Armored Division maintained contact with the enemy by patrolling and protected the south flank of XV Corps.

d. The Corps Artillery fired thirty-two counterbattery missions during the period. Six missions were fired on enemy vehicles on roads in the vicinity of IEINTREY (Q2603).

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e. The 106th Cavalry Group reported no change in its front line dispositions. The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in reserve in the vicinity of EINVILLE.

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f. All air support missions scheduled for XV Corps during the period were cancelled because of adverse weather conditions at the bases.

26. 26 OCTOBER 1944:

a. During this period the 44th Infantry Division continued consolidating and improving its positions. The enemy made three small attacks prior to daylight. These attacks, against the 324th Infantry (the regiment occupying the left flank position in the division line) were each supported by four or five tanks, and were repulsed by artillery fire. At dawn and at dusk some enemy artillery fire was received along the front, with mortar fire falling throughout the day in the zone of the 114th Infantry. During the rest of the day the 44th Infantry Division continued to patrol to the east and to strengthen its positions.

b. The 2d French Armored Division maintained contact with the enemy by patrolling and protected the south flank of XV Corps.

c. The 79th Infantry Division, having closed in its rest area southwest of LUNEVILLE, initiated its maintenance and training program.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 29 counterbattery missions and 2 road-runners in the vicinity of IGNEY (Q320040) and the crossroad north of HONDREXON (Q280010).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group sent patrols from the 106th Squadron to the high ground at (Q221073) and (Q220078), locating one estimated company of enemy infantry there. The 121st Cavalry Squadron remained in group reserve in the vicinity of EINVILLE.

f. Because of poor weather no air missions were flown in support of XV Corps.

27. 27 OCTOBER 1944:

a. 27 October was quiet along the front of XV Corps with little activity other than patrolling marking the day. In the zone of the 44th Infantry Division, the 324th Infantry sent out patrols which reached VAUCOURT and REMONCOURT, finding the former place vacated by the enemy. REMONCOURT was occupied by the Germans, who later reoccupied VAUCOURT also. Considerable mortar fire was received during the day.

b. The 2d French Armored Division continued its probing of the enemy lines. Enemy artillery was active, and particularly heavy on BENAMENIL and MENIL-FLIN.

c. The 79th Infantry Division remained in its rest area carrying out a program of rehabilitation and training.

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d. XV Corps Artillery fired nine counterbattery missions, road interdiction missions on vehicular traffic, and on the crossroads northwest of GONDREXON (V2801). Thirty-six rounds were fired on the town of LEINTREY.

Armored Division seize MERVILLER and out the BACCARAT - RAON L'ETAPE road; the BACCARAT - BADONVILLER (V3789) road; and the BACCARAT - BROUVILLE (V2789) road. At the same time the 44th Infantry Division Artillery was directed to support the attack by fire in the OGEVILLER (V2594) area.

c. There was no change in the activities or disposition of the 79th Infantry Division.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 17 counterbattery missions, harassing missions, and on the canal north of RECHICOURT. The 932d Field Artillery Battalion 8-inch Howitzer) was attached to XV Corps and closed in position at (Q186027) by 2000.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to protect the Corps' left flank. Patrols from the 106th Cavalry Squadron determined that the enemy still occupied the high ground at (Q220078). The 121st Cavalry Squadron remained in reserve in the vicinity of EINVILLE.

f. XII TAC supported XV Corps with one squadron of fighter-bombers which bombed railroad bridges at (Q410097) and (V731914). XIX TAC did not support XV Corps this day.

30. 30 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 44th Infantry Division continued the improvement of its positions during the day and patrolled aggressively to the east. At 1540 the enemy attacked with one company in the zone of the 114th Infantry; the attack was broken up however by artillery and mortar fire.

(1) Before the end of the day the 44th Reconnaissance Troop moved to the vicinity of THIEBAULENIL and by 1800 had established patrols and listening posts from (V207977) to (V210985).

b. The 2d French Armored Division completed its regrouping with CCL (less Task Force Massu) remaining in position. Task Force Massu moved to an assembly area southeast of ST CLEMENT (V1693). CCD, less Task Force Noiret, assembled in the area: LARONXE (V1693) - ST CLEMENT, while elements of CCD assembled in the area MENIL-FLIN - FLIN. Meanwhile, Task Force Noiret moved to BENAMENIL, and CCV assembled in the area: VATHIMENIL (V1790) - CHENEVIERES. CCR (less the 3d and 5th Reconnaissance Companies) joined CCL in its area, the 3d Reconnaissance Company joining CCD and the 5th joining CCV. The 2d French Armored Division was now disposed to attack at 0830, 31 October, in compliance with orders of the Commanding General Seventh Army.

c. There was no change in the location or activities of the 79th Infantry Division.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired nine counterbattery missions during 30 October and the 182d Field Artillery Battalion fired five road-runners between REILLON (Q2600) and LEINTREY. Three TOT's of three battalions each were fired on XOUSSE and REMON-COURT, and two TOT's of two battalions each were delivered on VAUCOURT.

e. The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron relieved the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in the eastern edge of the FORET DE PARROY and on the high ground east of the FORET DE PARROY between (Q206081) and (Q212068). The 106th Cavalry Squadron upon being relieved moved to group reserve in the vicinity of EINVILLE. (32)

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f. Adverse weather conditions prevented missions being flown in close support of XV Corps.

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31. 31 OCTOBER 1944:

a. The 44th Infantry Division maintained its line, improved its positions and continued aggressive patrolling to the east. Aside from small enemy raids which were promptly dispersed by outposts and artillery fire, there was little enemy activity. The 2d Battalion 114th Infantry relieved the 1st Battalion which moved into regimental reserve at (Q2001).

b. The 2d French Armored Division, from the positions to which it had moved the previous day, attacked at 0830 with the mission of assisting the advance of the VI Corps by seizing MERVILLER, cutting off RAON L'ETAPE and BADONVILLER, and destroying the enemy forces in that region. (33)

(1) The attack order of the 2d French Armored Division directed that CCV (composed of the 501st RCC, 64th RADB, 111th RMT, TC Co Guillon and Ren Co Lucien plus 1 platoon of the 3d Engineer Company, with 36 bridgetrucks) occupy REHERREY (V2830) and MERVILLER, and the heights immediately dominating the latter town. Having occupied these areas, CCV was ordered to cross the VERDURETTE River and occupy the triangle: VACQUEVILLE (V3287) - FERME DU PONT (V3088) - REHERREY. A strong detachment was directed to cut the NEUFMAISONS (V3484) - RAON L'ETAPE road.

(2) CCD (the 12th CUIR, 3d RAC, 1st RMT, TD Co Bonet, Ren Co Troquerau, Engineer Company and Protection Company) was ordered to remove mines from the area: MENIL FLIN - AZERAILLES - GELACOURT (V2687), and occupy BROUVILLE and MERVILLER as soon as CCV had crossed the VERDURETTE. CCD was directed to push offensive reconnaissance toward BACCARAT and the BOIS DE GRAUMONT, covering BACCARAT with fire and occupying the north bank of the river if possible.

(3) The mission of CCL (composed of CCR less the 3d and 5th Reconnaissance Companies, and all of CCL except Task Force Massu) was to deceive the enemy southwest of BACCARAT by a display of activity. After the main attack to the south, CCL was to cross to the north bank of the MEURTHE River.

(4) Task Force Massu, composed of one heavy infantry company, one light infantry company, a medium tank company, an engineer detachment and two platoons of light tanks was to follow CCV, clean out HABLAINVILLER (V2591) and take up positions on the crest northeast of HABLAINVILLE, subsequently occupying positions on the VERDURETTE River covering the BLETTE.

(5) According to plan, CCV advanced upon its objective, sending a task force to occupy HABLAINVILLER, which was taken after comparatively light enemy resistance. CCV continued on to seize PETTONVILLE (V2692), and finally VAXAINVILLE (V2791) and REHERREY. These two places were successfully occupied and before 1600 elements of CCV had succeeded in cutting the BACCARAT - MONTIGNY (V3191) road at (V3088). Another task force of the combat command seized BROUVILLE and MERVILLER. VACQUEVILLE, at the end of the day, remained firmly in enemy hands but the high ground at (V3090) had been taken by CCV, which prepared to attack the town.

(6) One task force of CCD, meanwhile had taken AZERAILLES by 1000, while another, after seizing Hill 345 (V2591) during the morning, captured and occupied

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GELACOURT in the early afternoon. Elements of the combat command drove on towards BACCARAT, capturing Hill 324 (V2685) at 1500, and the road junction north of the city at (V2684). BACCARAT was entered during the evening, and by the end of the day the northern part of the city had been occupied, the stone bridge in the center of the town being taken intact.

(7) CCL sent out combat patrols which reach L'ANCIEN MOULIN at (V2179) and advanced to within 315 yards of the western part of BADMENIL (V2484). BADMENIL was held in force by the enemy.

(8) CCR occupied MENARMONT (V1980), encountering light resistance there. Patrols during 31 October maintained liaison with the 117th Cavalry Squadron and reconnoitered NOSSONCOURT (V2178) and BAZEIN (V2179) finding both strongly held by the enemy.

(9) Complete tactical surprise was obtained by the 2d French Armored Division which in this brilliantly executed operation killed or captured practically all of the enemy in its front.

c. There was no change in the location or the activities of the 79th Infantry Division.

d. Corps Artillery fired forty counterbattery missions and three TOT's, one in support of the 2d French Armored Division. Hostile vehicular traffic in its zone was tracked by radar on the HERBERVILLER - DOMEVRE (V3196) road and engaged.

e. The 121st Cavalry Squadron maintained its positions in the FORET DE PARROY and on the high ground east of the forest. The 106th Cavalry Squadron, in reserve, established outposts along the RHIN AU MARNE Canal in the vicinity of MOUACOURT.

f. Antiaircraft artillery accounted for two enemy planes destroyed and four damaged out of two flights each of three ME-109's.

g. XII TAC supported XV Corps during the period, engaging rail targets in the area. XIX TAC was unable to give close support to XV Corps but attacked ammunition and supply dumps.

Report of Operations

1 - 31 October 1944

SECTION III

SUMMARY

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1. Throughout the month of October, 1944, XV Corps advanced steadily in a northeasterly direction forcing the withdrawal of the enemy from the western approaches to the VOSGES, a zone of critical importance in the strategy of the Reich's defense. Covering a front of approximately fifteen miles, extending from BACCARAT on the south to EINVILLE on the north, XV Corps fought its way forward a distance of six to eight miles. In the left portion of the Corps' zone, the FORET DE PARROY, which had been strongly organized by the enemy (with a view to denying access to the corridor leading to the SAVERNE GAP) was cleared by 21 October, after hard and bitter fighting.

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2. The following communication centers were liberated by XV Corps in its advance:

MANONVILLER (V2098)
ST CLEMENT (V1693)
VATHIMENIL (V1990)
GLONVILLE (V2286)
AZERAILLES (V2388)
VAXAINVILLE (V2791)
HABLAINVILLE (V2591)
LANEUVEVILLE (Q2002)
EMBERMENIL (Q2304)
VAUCOURT (Q2308)
MENARMONT (V1980)
BAZIEN (V2179)

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3. During the month of October, 1944, XV Corps destroyed 51 enemy tanks and 2 SP guns.

4. XV Corps was opposed by units of the 11th Panzer Division, 15th Panzer Grenadier Division, 19th Infantry Division, 21st Panzer Division, 361st Infantry Division and 553d Infantry Division at various times during the month of October. The original aggregate strength of these units was cut from an approximate 28,400 to 5,600 because of casualties inflicted by XV Corps. 1,762 prisoners of war were captured.

5. On 9 October, 1944, General George C. Marshal, Chief of Staff of the Army, visited the XV Corps Command Post at LUNEVILLE and elements of the 79th Infantry Division in the FORET DE PARROY.

Wade H. Haislip

WADE H. HAISLIP,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

5 Annexes:

- 1 - Annex 1 (G-1 Data & Statistics)
- 2 - Annex 2 (G-2 Enemy Order of Battle)
- 3 - Annex 3 (CofS, General)
- 4 - Annex 4 (G-4 Supply, Transportation,
and Evacuation)
- 5 - Annex 5 (G-5 (Civil Affairs) Historical Data)

2 Incls:

- 1 - Footnotes to Summary of Operations,
XV Corps, 1 October to 31 October 1944.
- 2 - G-3 Journal and Journal File, Nos. 1 thru
31, inclusive, October, 1944.

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FOOTNOTES

<u>Foot Note No.</u>	<u>October Journal Date</u>	<u>Journal Entry No.</u>	<u>Reference</u>
1	1	51	79th Inf Div Sitrep No 79, 010001-010600 Oct.
2	1	33	XV Corps Arty Daily Periodic Rpt, 300800 Sep-010800 Oct.
3	2	4	2d Fr Armd Div, G-3 Periodic Rpt, 1 Oct.
4	4	45	79th Inf Div Sitrep No 93, 041200-041800 Oct.
5	3	33	79th Inf Div Sitrep No 88, 030600-031200 Oct.
6	4	47	Msg from 79th Inf Div, 041900 Oct.
7	4	45	79th Inf Div Sitrep No 93, 041200-041800 Oct.
8	5	1	2d Fr Armd Div, G-3 Periodic Rpt, 4 Oct 44.
9	7	4	79th Inf Div Sitrep No 102, 061800-062400 Oct.
10	6	42	Msg from G-2 79th Inf Div, 061830 Oct.
11	9	31	FO No 20, 79th Inf Div, 8 Oct.
12	11	3	79th Inf Div Sitrep No 118, 101800-102400 Oct.
13	11	60	79th Inf Div Sitrep No 121, 111200-111800 Oct.
14	11	42	Tp msg from G-3 XV Corps to G-3 2d Armd Div, 111405 Oct.
15	11	62	Tp msg from Cavalry Liaison, 111100 Oct.
16	12	44	Tp msg from Cavalry Liaison, 112035 Oct.
17	12	44	79th Inf Div Sitrep No 124, 120600-121200 Oct.
18	13	3	79th Inf Div Sitrep No 125, 121200-121800 Oct.
19	14	25	2d Fr Armd Div, G-3 Periodic Rpt, 13 Oct.
20	16	2	2d Fr Armd Div, G-3 Periodic Rpt, 15 Oct.
21	15	4	2d Fr Armd Div, G-3 Periodic Rpt, 14 Oct.
22	16	24	79th Inf Div, G-3 Periodic Rpt No 48, 15 Oct.
23	16	2	2d Fr Armd Div, G-3 Periodic Rpt, 15 Oct.
24	16	32	XV Corps G-2 Isum as of 161200 Oct.
25	17	9	XV Corps G-2 Isum, 162300 Oct.
26			Operations Instructions No 26, XV Corps, 171100 Oct.
27	18	4	79th Inf Div Sitrep No 150, 171200-180700 Oct.
28	18	25	Msg from G-2 79th Inf Div, 181110 Oct.
29	19	3	2d Fr Armd Div, G-3 Periodic Rpt, 18 Oct.
30			Operations Instructions No 31, XV Corps, 231300 Oct.
31			Operations Instructions No 33, XV Corps, 241130 Oct.
32	31	20	106th Cavalry Group, S-3 Periodic Rpt No 8, 29 Oct
33	31	43	2d Fr Armd Div Sitrep, 310600-311200 Oct. (See also paragraph 29 b, Section II of this Rpt).

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HEADQUARTERS
XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

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+ ~~SECRET~~ +
+Auth: CG XV Corps+
+Date: 23 Jan 45+
+Initials: WV
+++++

APC 436, US Army
23 January 1945

AG 314.7 (G)

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SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.
(Thru: Commanding General, Seventh Army)

In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, dated 18 November 1929, and Change 4 thereto, dated 10 August 1944, and Section IV, Circular No. 34, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 28 November 1944, the following report covering the operations of XV Corps during the period 1 November - 30 November 1944, both dates inclusive is submitted.

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

1. At the beginning of the month of November the composition of XV Corps remained unaltered from that of the previous month. In the line were the 2d French Armored Division, 44th Infantry Division, and 106th Cavalry Group, supported by Corps troops. The 79th Infantry Division was in a rest area, southwest of LUNEVILLE.

2. The attack launched by the 2d French Armored Division on the last day of October had proved successful. MERVILLER (V2987) and BACCARAT (V2684) had been occupied and the new front of XV Corps extended along the line: (V305905) - (V270935) - (V220975) - (Q255040) - (Q228072).

REPORT OF OPERATIONS

1 - 30 November 1944

SECTION II

NARRATIVE

1. 1 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. The 44th Infantry Division remained in place during 1 November, encountering little enemy activity along its front. There were skirmishes between friendly patrols probing to the east and enemy patrols, but no major changes occurred in the line.

b. The 2d French Armored Division continued its attack to the south and east.

(1) COD (composed of the 12th CUIR, 3d RAC, 1st RCT, TD Company Bonet, Rcn Company Troquerau, Engineer Company and Protection Company) had the mission of cleaning up BACCARAT (where elements of the 125th Panzer Grenadier and Luftwaffe

MAPS: GSGS 4249, 4416, Scale 1:100,000, France.

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Einzata Knoll had been identified (12) and of holding the heights to the east of the city. The security of the triangle: GETACOURT (V2687) - Hill 324 - MEUVILLER (V2987) was also assigned CCD. At 0800 elements of CCD commenced clearing mines from the southwest bank of the MEURTHE. By 1000 the combat command had cleared BACCARAT of the enemy. Working southwest along the BACCARAT - MENIL road, patrols met elements of the 3d Battalion, 36th Engineer Regiment (VI Corps). Meanwhile elements of CCD advancing southeast from BACCARAT occupied BERTRICHAMP (V3081) by 1700 and dispatched patrols from there into the BOIS de GRAMONT (V2884).

(2) CCV (composed of the 501st RCC, 64th RADB, 111th RMT, TC Company Guillon, and Ren Company JUCIEN, plus one platoon of the 3d Engineer Company with 36 bridge trucks) received orders to prevent the enemy from reoccupying positions in the prepared lines to the north and east of VACQUEVILLE (V3187) and, if possible, to the north of STE POLE (V3290). To effect this it was planned to hold the triangle: REHERREY (V2890) - MONTIGNY (V3191) - VACQUEVILLE (V3187), advance in the area: ANCEVILLER (V3392) - DOLEVRE (V3196) - BADONVILLER (V3889) - PEXONNE (V3387), and send patrols toward VENEY (V3185) and BERTRICHAMPS. MONTIGNY and MIGNEVILLE (V2993) were captured by 1430, reconnaissance patrols continuing towards DOLEVRE. At 1500 the attack against VACQUEVILLE was launched, supported by planes from XIX TAC. Fierce resistance was encountered from infantry elements of the 25th Panzer Grenadier Regiment and 5 Panther tanks, three of which were ultimately destroyed. (2) In spite of determined enemy defense, VACQUEVILLE was cleared by 1730.

(3) CCR (composed of the 3d and 5th Reconnaissance Companies (3)) was directed at 1700 to assume responsibility for the sector between the MORTAGNE and MEURTHE Rivers, reverting to division reserve after the occupation of BACCARAT had been completed.

(4) CCI (composed of CCR, less the 3d and 5th Ren Companies, and all of CCI except Task Force MASSU) was instructed to move to the vicinity of HABLAINVILLE (V2591) at daybreak, ready to seize OGEVILLER (V2594), RECIENVILLE (V2789), and FREMENTIL (V2496), and thereafter to occupy positions along the VERDURETTE River. (4) CCI occupied RECIENVILLE at 1430, OGEVILLER at 1515, and HERBERVILLER (V2795) and FREMENTIL by 1600 against light and moderate resistance.

c. The 79th Infantry Division continued its program of rehabilitation and training in its rest area southwest of LUNEVILLE.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired twelve counterbattery missions during the period, five neutralization missions on the high ground north of FREMENTIL on the request of the 2d French Armored Division; and three road runners on the LEINTREY (Q2603) - AMENONCOURT (Q3003) - IGNEY (Q3204) road.

e. During the day, the 106th Cavalry Group retained its positions, Troop "B" 121st Cavalry Squadron, occupying Hill 280. The 106th Cavalry Squadron maintained contact with XII Corps units in the vicinity of MOUACOURT (Q1809).

f. The 22d Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (French) reported one ME-109 destroyed.

*Numbers refer to footnotes, Inclosure No. 1 to this report.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Nov, 44, dtd 23 Jan 45, Cont'd.

g. XIX TAC supported XV Corps during the day. Aircraft dropped 58 1000-pound bombs on the dam at 040510Z, scoring 36 hits on the dam proper and two hits on the locks. Pilots observed water pouring through the dam. 30 500-pound bombs were dropped on artillery in the vicinity of 045507Z, with 24 bombs reported as falling in the target area. XII TAC flew no missions in support of XV Corps during the period.

h. A total of 396 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 395, and the 44th Infantry Division, 1.

2. 2 NOVEMBER 1944.

a. Elements of the 44th Infantry Division patrolled along the division front during the morning.

(1) Patrols discovered early in the day that the enemy had withdrawn from positions at DOMJEVIN (V235978) and from the high ground east of the town. Elements of the 2d Battalion, 114th Infantry occupied the village at 1545. (5) The advance of the regiment continued during the day against little opposition and by 1900, the 2d Battalion had advanced three kilometers and the 3d Battalion on the left of the 2d Battalion had advanced two kilometers. Extensive minefields were encountered in and around DOMJEVIN.

(2) There was no change in the dispositions of the 71st or the 324th Infantry. Patrol skirmishes constituted the only activity during the day.

(3) The 44th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop maintained contact between the right flank of the 114th Infantry and CCI of the 2d French Armored Division.

b. The plan of the 2d French Armored Division for 2 November was to hold the strongpoints it had established on the BIETTE River and on the heights southeast of MONTIGNY. East of the line: BACCARAT - MERVILLER - STE POLE elements of the 2d French Armored Division were being relieved by VI Corps units, in whose zone BACCARAT and MERVILLER were included. (6) As stated in Operations Instruction No. 37, XV Corps, dated 2 November 1944, VI Corps on 2 November began moving one RCT to the high ground adjacent to the Corps' boundary northeast of BACCARAT to protect crossings over the MEURTHE in that vicinity, to establish and maintain contact with the 2d French Armored Division, and to protect the left flank of VI Corps. The Commanding General, 2d French Armored Division, was authorized direct contact with the 45th Infantry Division relative to details of the relief of the 2d French Armored Division within the zone of VI Corps.

(1) During the day, CCI continued clearing minefields in the area southeast of BACCARAT while CCI reorganized south of the MEURTHE River and southeast of the BIETTE.

(2) At 0800, elements of CCV in MONTIGNY withdrew to Hill 319 (V303903) because of the threat of enemy armor between MONTIGNY and STE POLE (V3290). Reconnaissance patrols were sent in the direction of VENEY which had been evacuated by the enemy. (7) At 1100, while the main positions of CCV remained on the high ground at V307907, light forces were sent in to reoccupy MONTIGNY. Strong combat patrols outside of NEUFMAISON, PEXONNE and BOIS DE GODFRIEN encountered fortified

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positions, antitank guns, small arms and machine gun fire.

(3) Patrols of CCD were sent from BACCARAT MEUVILLER, and BERTRICHAMPS towards the east and southeast. Though VENEY was found clear, further movement was hindered by undefended road obstacles.

c. At 1200 Operations Instructions No. 37, XV Corps, was published, alerting one RCT of the 79th Infantry Division. This RCT, composed of one infantry regiment, one field artillery battalion (105mm Howitzer), one company of combat engineers, and one medical collecting company, was to be prepared to move by motor on three hours notice from the Commanding General, 2d French Armored Division, to an area to be assigned by him, and to be attached to his command upon arrival there. The mission of this RCT was to assist the 2d French Armored Division in holding the BACCARAT area which it had recently seized. There was no other change in the status of the 79th Infantry Division, which remained in its rest area southwest of LUNEVILLE.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired sixteen counterbattery missions and two TOT's of three battalions each on the railroad yards in AVRICOURT (Q3106).

e. Elements of the 121st Cavalry Squadron of the 106th Cavalry Group occupied the hill at (Q220075) supported by Troop C from a position in the eastern edge of the FORET DE PARROY (8). Troop A occupied the high ground at (Q220072) - (Q225071), with an OP established on the hill at (Q225072). The 106th Cavalry Squadron remained in Group reserve in the vicinity of EINVILLE engaged in training and maintenance.

f. XII and XIX TAC were unable to fly missions in close support of XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions.

g. A total of 56 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 54, and the 44th Infantry Division 2.

3. 3 NOVEMBER 1944.

a. In the zone of the 44th Infantry Division the 71st Infantry advanced approximately 3 kilometers during the day.

(1) The 1st Battalion, 71st Infantry, in the center of the 44th Infantry Division's line moved forward early in the morning and by 0730 gained its objective the eastern edges of REMBOIS wood (Q255032). (9) The 2d Battalion, 71st Infantry (on the right of the 1st Battalion) was able also to move forward without incident and by 1535 a line had been established from (Q255015) to (Q257028). The 3d Battalion remained in reserve.

(2) The 3d Battalion, 114th Infantry on the right flank of the 71st Infantry, was unable to advance because of extensive minefields on the high ground to its front. A gap along the axis of advance between the 3d Battalion of the 114th and the 2d Battalion of the 71st Infantry was covered by patrols. There was no change in the disposition of the 1st and 2d Battalions, 114th Infantry.

(3) There was no change in the dispositions of the 324th Infantry.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Nov 44, dtd 23 Jan 45, Cont'd.

(4) At 0715 patrols found LEINTREY (Q2603) and VEHO (Q2400) unoccupied. A combat patrol of one platoon made contact with the enemy in BLEHERRY (V2698) and maintained that contact throughout the period. The 44th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop assembled in the vicinity of THIEBAUTENIL (V1798).

b. There was no change in the dispositions of the 2d French Armored Division.

(1) CCI continued the task of clearing minefields in its zone.

(2) CCV maintained observation and contact patrols east of VACQUEVILLE. CCD cleared enemy groups from the BOIS de GRAMMONT.

c. The 79th Infantry Division continued its program of rehabilitation and training in its rest area.

d. Corps Artillery fired a total of twenty-six counterbattery missions during the period and a TCT of five battalions on a force estimated to be twenty tanks in the vicinity of DOMEVRE, repeating it 40 minutes later. Six harassing missions were fired by the 132d Field Artillery Battalion in the vicinity of REILLON (Q2600) and CHAZELE (V2999).

e. The 121st Cavalry Squadron maintained positions on the high ground east of the FORET de PIRROY. The 106th Cavalry Squadron remained in group reserve in the vicinity of EINVILLE.

f. Antiaircraft artillery was active in the vicinity of AZERAILLES (V2388), engaging four ME-109's, destroying two planes and damaging one. Seven missions in a field artillery role were fired during the period by the 214th AAA Gun Battalion with effective results.

g. XII and XIV TAC flew no missions in close support of XV Corps during the period due to adverse weather conditions.

h. A total of 46 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 25, and the 44th Infantry Division, 19.

4. 4 NOVEMBER 1944.

a. In the zone of the 44th Infantry Division the regiments conducted patrolling throughout the period. By 2145 the 3d Battalion, 114th Infantry, advanced east to the high ground (Q242001) - (Q254016) the minefields having been cleared during the day. The forward positions of the 44th Infantry Division included (Q251015) - (Q238001) by dark (10), the gap between the 3d Battalion 114th Infantry and the 2d Battalion 71st Infantry being closed by this advance. Patrols were maintained throughout the period; the newly gained terrain was improved, organized, and cleared of mines.

(1) There were no changes in the dispositions of the 71st and 324th Infantry.

b. The 2d French Armored Division spent the day regrouping.

(1) CCV occupied the REHURRY - AZERATIVES - FONTENOY - BACCARAT (exclusive) - MERVILLER (exclusive) area, and CCR the HIGNEVILLE - HABLAINVILLE - MENIL FLIN - VAXAINVILLE area. CCI took up positions in the vicinity of HERBEVILLER - BENAMENIL - VATHMENIL and PETTONVILLE, and CCD in LARONXE - MOYEN - MAGNIERE - KAFFEVILLERS.

(2) During the day elements of CCD and CCV were relieved by the 117th Cavalry Squadron and the 36th Engineer Regiment (both VI Corps units) at VACQUEVILLE. CCI maintained contact with the 44th Infantry Division and CCV with the 45th Infantry Division.

c. The 79th Infantry Division continued its program of rehabilitation and training in its rest area, preparatory to its relief of elements of the 2d French Armored Division and the 44th Infantry Division as directed by Operations Instructions No. 30, XV Corps, dated 23 October.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired thirty counterbattery missions during the period. One mission was fired on an enemy ammunition dump, which was destroyed. Fourteen harassing missions were fired on road targets picked up by radar.

e. In the zone of the 106th Cavalry Group the 121st Cavalry Squadron continued to occupy the high ground east of the FORET de PARROY. The 106th Cavalry Squadron remained in group reserve in the vicinity of EINVILLE.

f. Antiaircraft artillery engaged one ME-109 in the vicinity of HABLAINVILLE. There was no observed hit.

g. XV Corps Engineers completed the construction of a 110 foot DD Bailey bridge at (V234873). A class 40 two-way single span bridge under construction at (V257948) was opened for one-way traffic, as was a two-way culvert constructed at (V259945).

h. XII and XIX TAC were unable to give close support to XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions. Night fighters operated over XV Corps front during the hours of darkness to intercept hostile aircraft.

i. A total of 95 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 89 and the 44th Infantry Division 6.

5. 5 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. The 44th Infantry Division continued patrol activities and maintained its front line without change except for a readjustment of regimental boundaries in the vicinity of (Q253039) where elements of the 71st Infantry relieved one platoon of the 324th Infantry.

b. The 2d French Armored Division maintained its positions throughout the period. By oral agreement between the Commanding General 2d French Armored Division and the Commanding General 45th Infantry Division (VI Corps) the area between VACQUEVILLE and (Q315889) was jointly occupied. Patrols were pushed to the east along the entire division front.

c. The 79th Infantry Division continued its program of rehabilitation and training.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 514.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Nov 44, dtd 23 Jan 45, Cont'd.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired twenty-three counterbattery missions and two roadrunners of 1 Battalion each on the road from IDRIY (G3104) to AVRICOURT (G3106). Two TOT's were fired on enemy infantry southeast of XOUSSE (G2407).

e. The 121st Cavalry Squadron of the 106th Cavalry Group continued the protection of the Corps' left flank from positions in the FORET DE PARROY and the high ground immediately to the east. Contact was maintained with XII Corps and the 44th Infantry Division. The 106th Cavalry Squadron remained in group reserve.

f. Four aircraft, possibly Spitfires with German markings, were engaged by antiaircraft artillery in the vicinity of AZERAILLES and driven away.

g. XII TAC supported XV Corps with 16 sorties during the day, hampered, however, by clouds. P-61 night fighters operated over the Corps' zone during the hours of darkness. XIX TAC did not fly missions in support of XV Corps during the period.

h. Two prisoners, captured by the 44th Infantry Division, was the total in the Corps for the day.

6. 6 NOVEMBER 1944.

a. The 44th Infantry Division continued active patrolling and the improvement and consolidation of its positions. There was no change in the dispositions of subordinate units. In the division zone mined areas were cleared, the Division Engr reporting that a total of 1695 "R" mines and 363 "S" mines had been picked up and destroyed since 24 October. There was no aggressive ground activity on the part of the enemy; sporadic artillery fire fell along the division front. Prisoners of war were taken from the 951st and 952d Volksgrenadier Regiments. (11)

b. On the right flank of XV Corps front the 2d French Armored Division maintained contact with the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (VI Corps). All units sent out patrols to the east and elements of CCV drove two small enemy parties from LONTIGNY.

c. The 79th Infantry Division remained in its rest area.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired eight counterbattery missions during the period. The 993d Field Artillery Battalion (4.5" Gun) closed in position area at 1400 in the vicinity of (G201020).

e. The 106th Cavalry Squadron relieved the 121st Cavalry Squadron in position, completing the relief at 1500. The 121st Cavalry Squadron reverted to group reserve and moved to the vicinity of EINVILLE. Troop C 121st Cavalry Squadron outposted MOUACOURT to prevent the infiltration of enemy patrols into the town. Contact was maintained with elements of the XII Corps at MOUACOURT.

f. Antiaircraft artillery reported 20 enemy and 2 unidentified aircraft over the LUNEVILLE area. No aircraft were engaged.

g. XII and XIX TAC flew no missions in support of XV Corps during the period because of adverse weather conditions.

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h. A total of 6 prisoners was taken by the Corps. All were captured by the 44th Infantry Division.

7. 7 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. The 44th Infantry Division maintained its dispositions in the left of XV Corps' line. Patrols reached IEINTREY, approached to within 300 yards of REILLON and to within 50 yards of BLEMERY. There was no contact with the enemy and no other change during the day.

b. The 2d French Armored Division patrolled to its front, maintaining contact with the 117th Cavalry Squadron. Some artillery fire was received at BROUVILLE, MIGNEVILLE and FREMENIL.

c. The 79th Infantry Division continued its training program in the rest area.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired four counterbattery missions and three roadrunners on the secondary road from (Q324018) to (Q322024) and in the vicinity of AUTREPIERRE (Q3101).

e. Elements of the 106th Cavalry Group screened the Corps' left flank from positions along the east edge and high ground to the west of the FORET DE PARROY.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Squadron patrolled to the north and east and cleared minefields from its area.

(2) The bulk of the 121st Cavalry Squadron remained in reserve near EINVILLE. Elements of the squadron kept contact with XII Corps in the vicinity of MOUACOURT.

f. XII and XIX TAC were unable to support XV Corps during the period because of adverse weather conditions.

g. A total of 5 prisoners was taken by the Corps, all being captured by the 44th Infantry Division.

8. 8 NOVEMBER 1944:

At 1400, Field Order No. 11 was published by Headquarters XV Corps. It directed:

(1) That XV Corps maintain active and close contact with enemy in the Corps' zone.

(2) That XV Corps attack on D day; capture and secure SARREBOURG: force the SAVERNE GAP prepared to exploit east of the VOSGES. All units were to be prepared to attack on Corps' order on 48 hours notice after a date and hour to be announced.

a. In the zone of the 44th Infantry Division patrols of the division continued probing enemy positions. Due to the heavy rains it was necessary to conduct extensive maintenance work within the division area. Otherwise, there was relatively little activity during the period; dispositions remained unchanged.

Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 514.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Nov 44, dtd 23 Jan 45, Cont'd.

b. The 2d French Armored Division patrolled in its zone and reported an enemy patrol west of MONTIGNY during the day. There was no change in the line.

c. The 79th Infantry Division continued its program of training and rehabilitation.

d. Corps Artillery during the period fired twenty counterbattery missions. The 698th Field Artillery Battalion (240mm How) with a detachment of Battery B, 575th Field Artillery Battalion (8" Gun) attached, closed into the Corps' zone at 2030. The 17th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm How) and 976th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm Gun) moved to bivouac areas in the FORET DE MONDON and one howitzer of the 17th Field Artillery Battalion moved into position and registered during the afternoon.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued the protection of the left flank of XV Corps; patrols from Troop B 121st Cavalry Squadron reported XURES (Q2010) clear of enemy. Contact with XII Corps was maintained. There was no change in the disposition of the 121st Cavalry Squadron which remained in reserve, nor of the 106th Cavalry Squadron which continued in the line.

f. Antiaircraft artillery engaged five ME-109's at 1530. Two aircraft were destroyed and the pilot of one was captured.

g. Because of the heavy rains the unusually high water necessitated extensive work by the Corps Engineers on all bridges in the Corps' zone. Minefields in the area were cleared as well as fifty percent of the railroad bed between ST CLEMENT (V1693) and BACCARAT (V2684).

h. All planes normally in support of XV Corps were on loan to XIX TAC for support of Third Army which attacked during the morning. During the afternoon inclement weather prevented air support of XV Corps.

i. A total of 5 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 2; the 44th Infantry Division, 2; and Corps troops, 1.

9. 9 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. There were no changes in the dispositions of the 44th Infantry Division. Except for patrol and mine clearing activities, operations were limited because of the swollen streams.

b. The 2d French Armored Division patrolled in its zone with CCV's Task Force Putz commencing the relief of Task Force Cantarel. Otherwise, there was no change.

c. The 79th Infantry Division remained in its rest area and continued its program of rehabilitation and training.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 6 counterbattery missions, the 182d Field Artillery Battalion engaging vehicular traffic on the road between (Q289030) and (Q289034). Two missions were fired on a nebelwerfer at (Q294034). The 69th Armored Field Artillery Battalion (105mm How) (Self-Propelled) and the 160th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm How) closed in the Corps' zone 9 November and occupied positions to the south and southeast of la NEUVEVILLE, the CP being at CROISMARE.

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e. Elements of the 106th Cavalry Squadron advanced on its front to a position at (Q222078), maintaining contact with XII Corps. The remainder of the front line was unchanged. The 121st Cavalry Squadron continued training and rehabilitation in the vicinity of EINVILLE.

f. High water continued to impede traffic over the bridges at CROISMARE, MANONVILLER, and THIEBAUMENIL. The neutralization and clearing of minefields throughout the Corps' zone was continued by the engineers. Additional clearing of mines along the BACCARAT - ST CLEMENT railroad was accomplished.

g. XII TAC supported XV Corps with 12 aircraft, which were, however, unable to engage targets because of the poor weather. XIX TAC did not support XV Corps during the period.

h. 2 prisoners were taken by the Corps, both of which were captured by the 44th Infantry Division.

10. 10 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. There was no change in the disposition of the 44th Infantry Division during the day. Patrols continued active reconnaissance to the east and found the enemy line to be unchanged, receiving fire from small arms and mortars. (12)

b. The 2d French Armored Division maintained its front line without change. A minor regrouping of elements of CCV was effected during the day which was otherwise quiet, except for contact with an enemy patrol which was driven out of the area west of MONTIGNY (V3191).

(1) Operations Instructions No. 40 XV Corps, dated 10 November, was published (reference Field Order 11, XV Corps, dated 8 November) directing the 2d French Armored Division to be prepared, on Corps order, to clear enemy resistance from the vicinity of DOMEVRE to include the wooded areas north and south of DOMEVRE should the 79th Infantry Division bypass the area. Coordinated plans were to be prepared by the Commanding General 2d French Armored Division and the Commanding General 79th Infantry Division.

c. The 79th Infantry Division in the rest area southwest of LUNEVILLE published a movement order during the day directing the displacement of all division units to an area in the vicinity of (Q2291) - (Q2295) in the zone of the 2d French Armored Division. This order was made necessary by Field Order No. 11 XV Corps, issued on 8 November.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired nineteen counterbattery missions. The 989th Field Artillery Battalion fired one battalion TOT on 86mm guns and mortars into ST MARTIN (V2796) at 2312. The 698th Field Artillery Battalion (240mm How) (less detachment 8" Gun) completed its occupation of position in the vicinity of MANONVILLER (Q164993) by 1900.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued on its mission of protecting the left flank of the Corps and maintaining contact with the XII Corps. Elements of the 106th Cavalry Group occupied VAUCOUT (Q2308) at 1700 and Hill 264 (Q222088) before dark. The 121st Cavalry Squadron remained in group reserve near EINVILLE.

f. The Antiaircraft artillery reported three ME-109's over XV Corps' zone, two being engaged by automatic weapons and one being destroyed by the 22d AAA Bat

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(2) The 315th Infantry began its movement to an area just south of the 314th Infantry at 1830; by midnight its leading elements had closed in the new area near (Q219965).

(3) The displacement of the division artillery, which had begun in the morning, was completed before 2400, with firing positions occupied during the hours of darkness.

(4) The 313th Infantry, in division reserve at Z975975), remained in the rest area during the period prepared to move forward on the following day.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 25 counterbattery missions during the day.

e. In the zone of the 106th Cavalry Group, elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied positions on Hill 272 (Q236078). Otherwise there was no change. The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in group reserve in the vicinity of EINVILLE where it continued its program of rehabilitation and maintenance.

f. Antiaircraft Artillery engaged two ME-109's over the area with negative results.

g. XII and XIX TAC were unable to support XV Corps with missions during the period because of adverse weather conditions.

h. No prisoners were captured by the Corps during the day.

12. 12 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. During this period the 44th Infantry Division continued to patrol in its zone and to effect readjustments in the dispositions of some elements.

(1) The 3d Battalion 114th Infantry relieved the 2d Battalion 114th Infantry; the 79th Division Reconnaissance Troop relieved elements of the 2d Battalion 114th Infantry in the division zone at 2100 in the vicinity of (Q2498). The 2d Battalion 114th Infantry closed in position in division reserve at (Q200010) by 2130. The 1st Battalion 114th Infantry relieved the 2d Battalion 314th Infantry in position at 2200.

(2) There was no change in the dispositions of the 71st or 324th Infantry Regiments.

b. The 79th Infantry Division completed the move to its assembly areas for the attack.

(1) The 314th Infantry and 315th Infantry (less 1st Battalion) moved at 1830 to forward assembly areas in the vicinity of (Q2291) - (Q2295) in rear of the line of departure, closing at 2250 and 2215, respectively.

(2) The 313th Infantry closed in its assembly area in division reserve at 2315.

(3) The 79th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop completed the relief of elements of the 44th Infantry Division in the 79th Infantry Division zone by 2100.

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c. In the zone of the 2d French Armored Division elements of CCV occupied MONTIGNY (V3191) and elements of CCR prevented an enemy attempt to destroy the railroad bridge across the BIETTE River in HERBEVILLE (V2795). The division maintained contact with the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and continued its mission of protecting the south flank of the XV Corps. ~~SECRET~~

d. Thirteen counterbattery missions were fired by the Corps artillery prior to 1800. An intensified harassing and counterbattery program was carried out in which approximately 23,000 rounds were expended between 1800 and 0700 13 November. Most of the harassing missions fired were road runners and covered all main roads to the front.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to occupy positions on the high ground east of the FORET DE PARROY.

(1) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Squadron occupied Hill 264 (Q222088), with elements blocking the road south from XURES at (Q212083).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Squadron closed in its assembly area at 1700, in the vicinity of (V207029).

f. Two ME-109's were over the area. Both were engaged without reported destruction.

g. Unfavorable weather prevented close air support.

h. A total of 5 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number, the 2d French Armored Division captured 2, and the Corps Troops captured 3.

13. 13 NOVEMBER 1944:

In compliance with the provisions of Field Order 11 XV Corps, 8 November, XV Corps attacked on the morning of 13 November with the mission of::

(1) Capturing and securing SAREBOURG.

(2) Forcing the SAVERNE GAP prepared to exploit to the east of the VOSGES.

It had snowed during the night and the ground and trees were white with snow. All streams in the zone of action of the Corps were in flood and many were over their banks. The mud was bottomless.

a. The 79th Infantry Division crossed its line of departure (the line held by the 2d French Armored Division) at 0700, with the 315th and 314th Infantries abreast, from right to left. The 313th Infantry, in division reserve, remained at BROUVILLE (V2789).

(1) The 315th Infantry, having taken the hill at (V323918) by 0810, continued towards STE POLE (V3209) and ANCEVILLER (V3392) meeting little resistance until it reached the outskirts of ANCEVILLER. Here the advance was held up by fierce small arms, mortar and artillery fire. The 1st Battalion in order to outflank this resistance swung to the west of ANCEVILLER and against steadily increasing opposition advanced to the north. ~~SECRET~~

(2) By 0815 the 314th Infantry had taken the hill at (V323930) from which it advanced north.

(3) Resistance grew stronger on the front of both regiments during the afternoon, and at dark the line held by the forward infantry elements extended from STE FOIE, thence northeast to (V314908), thence to (V3392), thence northeast to (V329946).

(4) The 313th Infantry displaced after dark from its initial assembly area to an area near MONTIGNY (V3191), closing in its new area at 2113.

b. The 44th Infantry Division attacked from the line held by its advance elements at 0700, with the 71st Infantry on the right and the 324th Infantry on the left.

(1) The initial advance of both assault regiments was made under light resistance. However, after the attack had progressed about 1000 meters enemy resistance, particularly in the vicinity of REMONCOURT (Q2607), increased to such an extent that the advance progressed very slowly and by dark the front line was, in general, the line: (Q269058) - (Q268039) - (Q254032) - (Q253059) - (Q265057).

(2) The 114th Infantry, in accordance with the division plan, held the extreme right of the division sector with its 3d Battalion, and the extreme left with its 1st Battalion. The 2d Battalion remained in division reserve near LA NEUVEVILLE (V2002). The 114th Infantry made no advance during the day.

c. The 2d French Armored Division assembled in Corps reserve in rear of the 79th Infantry Division, supported the attack of the 79th Infantry Division by fire to the limit of range of its supporting weapons, maintained contact throughout the day with the 117th Cavalry Squadron (VI Corps) and protected the south flank of the Corps.

d. During the night 12-13 November the Corps artillery fired a preparation to bombard the enemy's defensive positions, interdict his supply routes and neutralize his artillery. Between 1800, 12 November and 0700, 13 November, a total of 23,000 rounds were fired. An additional 2,700 rounds (approximately) were expended on planned fires on 40 counterbattery missions, 18 road runners, and 11 concentrations on troops, pillboxes, command posts and supply points.

e. The 106th Cavalry Squadron attacked at 0700 to the northeast through the BOIS DE FILLOT (Q2308) and BOIS DE LA CHARBONNIERE (Q2408) and advanced during the morning against light resistance. During the afternoon the 121st Cavalry Squadron passed through the 106th Cavalry Squadron and attacked towards LAGARDE (Q2410) but were unable to move beyond the BOIS DU TILLOT LA CHARBONNIERE due to heavy artillery fire from the north. The 106th Cavalry Squadron sent Troop B to MOUACOURT (Q1809) to maintain contact with cavalry of the XII Corps. The remainder of the squadron moved to group reserve in the vicinity of EINVILLE (Q0807).

f. Armed reconnaissance was flown by 16 fighter-bombers of the XII TAC over the Corps' zone between 1300 and 1615. Because of adverse weather none of the airplanes was able to observe or engage enemy targets.

g. A total of 70 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 44th Infantry Division captured 30; the 79th Infantry Division, 7; and Corps Troops, 33.

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14. 14 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. In the zone of the 44th Infantry Division no appreciable advances were made due to intense enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire.

(1) The 71st Infantry resumed the attack at 0720 but enemy fire prevented any advance during the morning. The 1st Battalion only began to advance slowly at 1300 but by the close of the period had gained only 500 yards.

(2) A slight advance only was achieved by the 324th Infantry in an early morning attack launched under cover of darkness. All attempts to continue the advance during the day were stopped by strong enemy action.

(3) The 114th Infantry supported the attack of the 71st Infantry by fire of its 1st and 3d Battalions from their positions of 13 November on both flanks. The 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry, after being relieved by elements of the 324th Infantry moved to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of (Q246018). At dark the 2d Battalion was enroute to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of (Q247026). The 3d Battalion (less one reinforced rifle company) passed to division reserve at (Q245095), the position it had occupied throughout the day.

b. During the day the 79th Infantry Division continued the attack against moderate resistance consisting of small arms and artillery fire.

(1) The attack commenced at 0700 with the 2d Battalion 315th Infantry moving on ANCERVILLER (V3393). The town was taken by 0930. At 1630 the battalion repulsed a counterattack by an estimated company and inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy. The 1st Battalion bypassed ANCERVILLER to the north and attacked northeast making good progress. By dark the battalion was at the southwest outskirts of HAICVILLE (V3595). The 3d Battalion captured STE POLE (V3290) at 1530 after hard fighting.

(2) In the zone of the 314th Infantry the 1st and 3d Battalions launched a coordinated attack at 1115. Rapid progress was made and at dark the 3d Battalion had reached (V350953) and the 1st Battalion was at (V342965). The 2d Battalion 314th Infantry was relieved by the 2d Battalion 313th Infantry in position in the vicinity of the BOIS DE BOUVROYE.

(3) The 1st Battalion 313th Infantry moved to the vicinity of ANCERVILLER closing by 2040. The 3d Battalion remained in the vicinity of (V905310).

c. In the zone of the 2d French Armored Division, CCV maintained liaison with the 117th Cavalry Squadron of the VI Corps. There was no change in dispositions of CCD. Task Force MINJONNET which had been attached to CCR reverted to control of CCI. There was no change in the dispositions of CCR and CCD.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired a total of 60 counterbattery missions and numerous interdiction missions on roads in support of the attack. During the night of 13-14 November prepared fires were placed in the area between CHAZELLES (V2999) and AVRICOURT (Q3106).

e. The 121st Cavalry Squadron continued to occupy positions in VAUCOURT and on the north and northeast edges of the BOIS DE TILLIOT and the BOIS DE LA CHARBONNIERE. A patrol was successful in reaching (Q245106) but was unable to

reconnoiter the BOIS DE LA GARENNE because of strong enemy artillery concentrations.

f. XIX and XII TAC were unable to support the Corps with any missions during the period because of adverse weather conditions.

g. A total of 112 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 79th Infantry Division captured 81; the 44th Infantry Division 28; the 2d French Armored Division 2; and Corps Troops 1.

15. 15 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division continued the attack at 0730.

(1) The 1st Battalion 315th Infantry attacked HAILLOVILLE (V3595) against moderate resistance and captured and mopped up the town by 1115. The battalion resumed the attack to the northeast towards HARBOUEY (V3797) at 1515 and captured the town by 1830. The 2d and 3d Battalions remained in position in the vicinity of ANCERVILLER and STE POIE respectively.

(2) The 314th Infantry renewed its attack at 1315. The 3d Battalion of the regiment cut the road southeast of BARBAS (V3497) and the 2d Battalion advanced to the high ground north of vicinity of (V370984). Both battalions encountered intermittent resistance. The 1st Battalion remained in the vicinity of (V342965).

(3) The 3d Battalion of the 313th Infantry relieved the 3d Battalion of the 315th Infantry beginning at 0830 and established road blocks southeast of STE POIE (V3290). The 2d Battalion continued to protect the division's left flank, while the 1st Battalion remained in the vicinity of ANCERVILLER.

b. In the zone of the 44th Infantry Division the 114th Infantry attacked between the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 71st Infantry which held their positions and supported the attack of the 114th Infantry by fire. The 2d Battalion 114th Infantry was followed by the 1st Battalion, and when they had passed through the line of the 71st Infantry their direction of attack was changed by 90 degrees, the new axis pointing due north. They continued on during the day and by 1800 the 1st Battalion had reached the vicinity of (Q273062) on the left flank of the 2d Battalion. The 2d Battalion advanced to the vicinity of (Q277067) against strong opposition. One company of the 3d Battalion moved to the east edge of the BOIS LES AMIENBOIS in the vicinity of (Q2804) to protect the rear and flank of the attack.

(1) The 71st Infantry held its positions during the day, repulsing an enemy counterattack from the direction of GONDREXON (Q2801) at 1037 with the aid of artillery, mortar and small arms fire. After dark, the 71st Infantry commenced movement to the east edge of the BOIS LES AMIENBOIS.

(2) The 324th Infantry supported the attack of the 114th Infantry by fire from its positions.

c. CCR 2d French Armored Division in position between the 79th Infantry Division and the 44th Infantry Division sent patrols to the west edge of the BOIS BANAL (V2995) and found it clear of the enemy.

(1) CCI from positions in rear of the 79th Infantry Division advanced a strong reconnaissance patrol through the forward elements of the 79th Infantry towards NONHIGNY (V3795). This town was strongly held and the patrol withdrew under artillery fire to HAILLOVILLE (V3595).

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(2) CCV maintained contact with the 117th Cavalry Squadron on the south flank of XV Corps.

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d. Corps artillery fired a total of 21 counterbattery missions. Interdiction and harassing missions were also fired on enemy gun positions, road junctions and strong points during the period.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to cover the north flank of XV Corps.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Squadron sent patrols towards the woods in the vicinity of (Q255085) but were unable to cross the stream 200 yards west of that point due to high water.

(2) The 106th Cavalry Squadron maintained contact with elements of the 2d Cavalry Squadron (XII Corps) on the north flank of XV Corps.

f. Corps Engineers were engaged in clearing of mines from (Q255004) to (Q265044), from (V234083) to (Q245002) and from (V234062) to (V234083).

g. XII TAC supported the Corps with 20 sorties. A total of 10 500-pound bombs were dropped in the vicinity of IGNEY (Q3104). Motor transport and horse-drawn vehicles were strafed at (Q335042). Marshalling yards at MOLSHEIM (V8393) suffered direct hits. Bombs were dropped on enemy concentrations in the woods at (Q290000). One tank was destroyed and one was damaged.

h. A total of 244 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 79th Infantry Division captured 129; the 44th Infantry Division 114; and Corps Troops 1.

16. 16 NOVEMBER 1944:

By 16 November, the advance of XV Corps had changed the trace of the front line to form two narrow salients pointing northeast and east. The penetration of the 79th Infantry Division which had bypassed the woods to the northwest and southwest of DOMEVRE, created a large gap between its left flank and the right flank of the 44th Infantry Division. In order to broaden this penetration elements of the 2d French Armored Division were directed by Operations Instructions No. 45, Hq XV Corps, dated 16 November, to cover the right and left flanks of the 79th Infantry Division. To effect this the 2d French Armored Division was directed to patrol east and west of the ANCEVILLE - HAUOVILLE and BARBAS - HARBOUEY roads; to block approaches from the north and west toward the road between LA BLETTE River and LE VACON RAU, relieving in place elements of the 79th Infantry Division on that mission before dark 16 November. One combat command was to move to the area: MERVILLER - POMTIGNY - BROUVILLE to protect the rear of the 79th Infantry Division, prepared to advance to the northeast on Corps order. Reconnaissance was to be carried out in the directions of BADONVILLER and PARUX.

a. The 79th Infantry Division renewed the attack at daylight.

(1) The 314th Infantry attacked BARBAS (V3497) and at 1535 reported the capture of the town after hard fighting. The 1st Battalion 314th Infantry continued to advance to the north and captured the high ground in the vicinity of (V335985) south of BLAMONT by 1730. The 2d and 3d Battalions attacked to secure

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a crossing of the VEZOUSE River, ~~but~~ strong resistance consisting of heavy small arms, mortar and artillery ~~fire~~ were unable to effect a crossing.

(2) In the zone of the 315th Infantry the 3d Battalion continued to attack to the northeast and advanced 1 kilometer against stubborn enemy opposition. The 2d Battalion moved to an assembly area north of HARBOUEY (V3797), closing at 1900. The 1st Battalion occupied an area just south and west of the 3d Battalion.

(3) The 2d Battalion 313th Infantry relieved the 1st Battalion 314th Infantry in the BOIS DE BOUXI at 1910 and took over the defense of road blocks in that area. The 1st Battalion moved to NONHIGNY (V3795) and relieved the reconnaissance elements of the 2d French Armored Division in that town. The 3d Battalion (less one reinforced company) moved from the vicinity of STE POLE to ANCERVILLER (V3393). The force that remained in STE POLE successfully repulsed two small enemy attacks during the night.

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued the attack along its entire front and made good progress throughout the period against moderate resistance. (15)

(1) The 71st Infantry advanced its 1st and 2d Battalions east along the railroad and reached the eastern edge of the BOIS LES AMIENSBOIS by 0200. Patrols continued to the east and destroyed two pillboxes. The 2d Battalion withdrew for the night to the vicinity of the railroad station at EMBERMENIL (Q2302). The 3d Battalion remained at (Q2801).

(2) The 1st and 2d Battalions 114th Infantry advanced against light resistance to their initial objectives in the vicinity of (Q275074) - (Q278076). Patrols continued to the northwest in the BOIS DE LA GARENNE. The 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve in the vicinity of (Q230000).

(3) Resistance on the front of the 324th Infantry was moderate throughout the day. The regiment advanced to the line: (Q283063) - (Q281074) by 1110 and prepared to continue the attack to the east. At 1655 the 1st and 2d Battalions 324th Infantry attacked to the east to seize the high ground in the vicinity of (Q325067) and (Q312062), respectively. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion had reached the north-south road in the vicinity of (Q315068) and the 2d Battalion had advanced to the vicinity of (Q311060). The 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve.

c. Reconnaissance elements of CCR of the 2d French Armored Division captured NONHIGNY (V3795) by 1000 after a short fight. Reconnaissance was continued toward PARUX (V4093) and reached the western edge of the BOIS LE CHENE FORCHU (V3897). During the afternoon Task Force Morel-Déville of CCR attacked and captured MONTREUX (V3793) after a stiff fight. Other elements cleaned out the BOIS DE LA CROIX (V3794). CCL concentrated in the region of HERBEVILLER (V2795) and BURIVILLE (V2493). Task Force Minjonnet protected the northwest flank of the 79th Infantry Division. Reconnaissance elements of CCV moved in the direction of BADONVILLER (V3789) and met strong opposition southeast of STE POLE.

d. The corps artillery fired a total of 27 counterbattery missions plus numerous interdiction and harassing missions during the period in support of the attacking divisions.

e. There was no change in the disposition of the cavalry units. Elements of the 121st Cavalry Squadron sent patrols to the BOIS DE LA GARENNE and reached

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(Q262086). The 106th Cavalry Squadron remained in group reserve in the vicinity of EINVILLE.

f. XII TAC attacked secondary targets during the period as heavy overcast prevented close support operations. The marshaling yards at HEILING, STRASBOURG and MOLSHEIM were bombed with good results. XII TAC flew no missions in support of XV Corps.

g. A total of 366 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 79th Infantry Division captured 183; the 44th Infantry Division 110; and the 2d French Armored Division 73.

17. 17 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. Following extensive patrolling throughout the night the 79th Infantry Division resumed the attack prior to daylight to force a crossing of the VEZOUSE employing elements of the 315th and 314th Infantry from right to left.

(1) At 0400 the 314th Infantry, with the 2d and 3d Battalions from right to left, attacked north. The attack made only a slight gain due to intense enemy small arms and mortar fire from the commanding heights north of the VEZOUSE. The 1st Battalion 314th Infantry continued to occupy BARBAS and the high ground just south thereof overlooking BLAMONT (V3499). Later in the day this battalion was relieved by the 2d Battalion 313th Infantry. The 1st Battalion 314th Infantry then moved to an area in support of the 3d Battalion.

(2) The 2d and 3d Battalions 315th Infantry attacked northeast at 0600. By 0800 the 2d Battalion had reached (V383974) and the 3d Battalion was at (V381983). In the face of stubborn enemy resistance one company of the 3d Battalion crossed the VEZOUSE before 0930. The 1st Battalion 315th Infantry remained in the vicinity of HARBOUEY.

(3) The 1st Battalion 313th Infantry remained at NONHIGNY. The 2d Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion 315th Infantry and the 3d Battalion remained in the vicinity of ANCERVILLERS.

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued a steady advance to the east.

(1) In the zone of the 114th Infantry the 1st Battalion cleared the BOIS DE LA GARENNE (Q2709) and then moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Q293068), reverting to division reserve at 2200. The 2d Battalion cleared the BOIS DE LA BARONNE (Q2905) and prepared to attack east with the 3d Battalion on division order.

(2) At 0800 the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 324th Infantry attacked AVRICOURT (Q3105) from the high ground to the east of the town. AVRICOURT was occupied by 1430 and DEUTCH AVRICOURT by 1700 against strong opposition. The 3d Battalion supporting this attack repulsed a counterattack by the enemy from the northwest directed against the left flank of the 1st Battalion.

(3) The 71st Infantry attacked against moderate resistance to seize the high ground southeast of IGNEY (Q3104). The 3d Battalion seized AMENONCOURT (Q3003) by 1508, IGNEY (Q3104) by 1705, and captured its objective the high ground north

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of IGNEY by 1750. The 2d Battalion took AUTREPIERRE (Q3101) at 1945. The 1st Battalion assembled in an area south of IGNEY.

c. The 2d French Armored Division continued strong reconnaissances to the east of the 79th Infantry Division.

(1) Reconnaissance elements of CCR cleaned out the BOIS LE CHENE FORCHU (V3993) which they had entered the previous day. Other reconnaissance elements in force attacked PARUX (V3993), fighting their way into the west edge of town by dark.

(2) Elements of CCL cleared DOMEVRE (V3196) by 1130 and continued reconnaissance in the direction of BLAMONT (V3499).

(3) In a rapid surprise attack, elements of CCV seized BADONVILLER (in the zone of the VI Corps) before 0900 following a brief but bitter fight. BREMENIL (V4092) was occupied at 1630, but the enemy continued to hold the high ground northeast and northwest of the town.

(4) CCD remained in the vicinity of (V135880).

d. XV Corps Artillery fired thirty-one counterbattery missions during the period and numerous prepared harassing missions in the vicinity of BLAMONT (V3499) and the woods to the east of the town.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to cover the north flank of the Corps west of ETANG DE RECHICOURT.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Squadron moved forward through the BOIS DE LA GARINNE to attack MOUSSEY (Q2908). At 1800 the squadron made contact with the enemy at (Q280095). Meanwhile, patrols entered LA GARDE (Q2410) which was found to be evacuated but heavily mined and booby-trapped.

(2) The 106th Cavalry Squadron moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of REMONCOURT (Q2707), leaving two troops to continue to patrol along the RHIN-AU-MARNE Canal.

f. Antiaircraft artillery reported, but did not engage, one ME-109 over the Corps' zone. Four harassing and two interdiction missions were fired in a field artillery role with effective results.

g. XII TAC supported the attack of XV Corps by attacks on BLAMONT, IGNEY, FOULCREY, and RECHICOURT, and on marshalling yards at (V6183) and on road traffic.

h. A total of 637 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 255; the 44th Infantry Division 192; the 79th Infantry Division 176; and Corps Troops 14.

18. 18 NOVEMBER 1944:

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a. The 79th Infantry Division continued the attack against the most severe opposition encountered since the clearing of the FORET DE PARROY. In the zone of the division the enemy not only was dug in but well disposed to take the fullest advantage of the high ground to the north of the VEZOUSE. Hostile artillery OP's were numerous and any movement towards the river was covered by effective fire.

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(1) Despite this unfavorable situation, the 3d Battalion 315th Infantry (which had put one company across the VEZOUSE on the previous day) crossed the remainder of the battalion over the VEZOUSE and established a bridgehead by 0615. The 2d Battalion also crossed prior to daylight into the bridgehead. After daylight all movement was prevented by artillery, mortar and small arms fire, and an attempt by the 2d Battalion to seize the high ground northeast of REMONVILLE at 1500 was unsuccessful. Two later attempts to advance were also halted. The 1st Battalion supported the river crossing from positions on the south bank of the VEZOUSE.

(2) The 314th Infantry, on the left of the 315th Infantry, attacked north with its 2d and 3d Battalions at 0700, meeting heavy resistance. By late afternoon the 2d Battalion, after employing smoke, succeeded in crossing the river. (16) The 2d Battalion reached the western outskirts of FREMONVILLE (V3799) and at 2400 was fighting in the town. One company of the 3d Battalion gained the north bank of the river during the day. The 1st Battalion supported the attack of the 2d and 3d Battalions by fire.

(3) The 1st and 2d Battalions 313th Infantry maintained road blocks east of HARBOUEY (V3796) and NONHIGNY (V3694), respectively, while the 1st Battalion which had taken over the high ground south of BLAMONT completed clearing the ridge. Patrols crossed the river and entered BLAMONT, which was found unoccupied. At 1500 the 79th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop occupied the city, establishing road blocks to its north and east.

b. In the zone of the 44th Infantry Division, the advance to the east continued, against moderate resistance.

(1) The 1st Battalion 71st Infantry from a position east of IGNEY (Q3204) attacked at 1250 and seized Hill 355 (Q363034) by 1620. The 3d Battalion, at 1315, also attacked Hill 355 taking that portion of it in its zone. A task force organized at 1620 consisting of Companies A and I captured FOULCREY (Q3504) at 1800 without opposition. Meanwhile, the I&R Platoon, which had as its mission reconnaissance along the south flank, captured 17 enemy vehicles and all of the troops in them at REPAIX (Q3301). The 2d Battalion, in division reserve, conducted patrolling on the division south flank.

(2) At 1215 the 324th Infantry attacked east in a column of battalions, the 2d Battalion leading and supported by tanks, the 1st and 3d Battalions following. DEUTCH AVRICOURT, which had been entered the day before, was cleared by 1315. The attack continued to the northeast where, with the support of elements of the 106th Cavalry Group, the 324th seized RECHICOURT (Q3407). The spearhead of the attack had driven to the west edge of the BOIS DE KETZING (Q353075) by 1615 and by the end of the day, the 1st and 2d Battalions had closed near RECHICOURT.

(3) The 114th Infantry remained in division reserve in the vicinity of (Q293068).

c. Elements of the 2d French Armored Division advanced eastward with reconnaissance elements well in advance.

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(1) Task Force Morel-Deveille of CCV (composed of the Ren Bn and one company of TD's) seized PARUX (V4093) early in the afternoon, captured 80 prisoners and destroyed one 88mm gun. Other elements of the task force proceeded north, occupied the crossroad at (V405959) and approached the south edge of CIREY (V4198). Prior to dark contact was made with a friendly patrol from HARBOUEY (V3796) at (V395975).

(2) CCV repulsed a counterattack at dawn in the vicinity of BREMENIL (V3991). Prior to 1100 elements reached (V398924), took 120 prisoners and destroyed three antitank guns. At 1700 PETITHONT (V4295), defended on the south and south-east by enemy in strong positions, was captured. A patrol reached ANGOMONT (V4191) which was found to be evacuated.

(3) CCD displaced during the day to the area; DOMPTAIN (V1783) - AZER-ALLIES (V2288) - VAXAINVILLE (V3791). (17)

(4) CCI took over the protection of the left flank of the 79th Infantry Division. FENNEVILLER (V3688), PEXONNE (V3587), and NEUVILLER (V3691) were liberated by reconnaissance elements of CCI.

d. XV Corps artillery fired 24 counterbattery missions and numerous harassing and interdiction missions in support of division attacks during the day.

e. The 106th Cavalry Squadron attacked east at 0800, seized MOUSSEY (Q2908) and assisted the 324th Infantry in the clearing of RECHICOURT. The 121st Cavalry Squadron followed east in the direction of MOUSSEY and outposted the woods north and northwest of the town.

f. Antiaircraft artillery reported 11 hostile aircraft over the JUNEVILLE area which were not engaged because friendly aircraft were also operating in the vicinity. One ME-109 was shot down by P-47's and one ME-109 was shot down by the 22d French Antiaircraft Battalion.

g. XV Corps Engineers completed a two-way bridge over the VERDURETTE River (V257949) at 1700. In HERBEVILLER (V2795) one 50-foot class 70 Bailey Bridge and one 30-foot class 70 Bailey Bridge were completed and opened for traffic by 1600. An "S" minefield at (Q270034) was cleared during the day.

h. XII TAC supported XV Corps by attacks on enemy installations at FOULCREY, HATTIGNY, RICHEDAI, FRANQUELING, IBIGNY, ST GEORGES, and railroad equipment and gun positions in enemy rear areas.

i. A total of 561 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 350; the 44th Infantry Division 169; the 79th Infantry Division 28; and Corps Troops 14.

19. 19 NOVEMBER 1944:

The unrelenting, determined and continuous attacks of the Corps during the past week had pushed deeper and deeper into the hostile defenses despite stiff and at times fanatical resistance. The enemy had suffered heavily in personnel and materiel; marked deterioration had developed in the coordinated character of his defense, and there was ample evidence of confusion with demoralization beginning to appear.

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A breakthrough seemed certain. The decisive blow began with the order for the complete commitment of the 2d French Armored Division on the 19th, as painstakingly planned prior to the beginning of the operation; the Corps remained poised prepared to strike a blow of annihilation as its component elements continued their rapid and unceasing advance to complete the encirclement of the enemy within its zone by seizing the eastern exits of the VOSGES passes between DABO (Q6406) and PETITE PIERRE (Q6928).

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a. In the zone of the 79th Infantry Division the attack across the VEZOUSE was completed during the morning, all elements continuing on to the northeast. At 2200 19 November the 79th Infantry Division was relieved by Operations Instructions No. 49, XV Corps, of the mission of assisting the 44th Infantry Division in the capture of SARREBOURG. The 79th Infantry Division was further directed to be prepared to move by all available means of motor transport (except medical vehicles) to exploit any success of the 2d French Armored Division in the right portion of Corps' zone, and to be prepared to move one RCT motorized, on Corps order, at any time after 1000 20 November. One QM truck company was made available to the division at BIAUMONT at 0800 20 November. The division was also directed to be prepared to relieve the 2d French Armored Division on the Corps' objective, a bridgehead east of the VOSGES Mountains securing SAVERNE, and to protect the right (south) flank of the Corps.

(1) The 315th Infantry, after crossing its 1st Battalion (the last one to remain on the south bank of the river) planned to attack east along the TACONVILLE (Q4000) - HATTIGNY (Q4304) road. At 1200, the 1st Battalion attacked from positions it had occupied the preceding day at (V395988), the division reconnaissance troop leading. The 3d and 2d Battalions moved up on the right and left rear, respectively, cleaning out intermittent resistance along the way. The regiments closed at (Q4002) at 2100.

(2) The 314th Infantry completed its crossing of the VEZOUSE in the morning. Meanwhile, the 2d Battalion, fighting in FREMONVILLE, continued the attack it had begun on the previous day. The resistance was stubborn and determined but by 1100 the town was cleared and the battalion advanced to the northeast. The 1st Battalion, which had previously moved into the wood at (Q3700) reached its objective at (Q378017) by 1210 at which time the 3d Battalion advanced to join the 1st Battalion on its objective. The regiment then moved toward RICHEVAL (Q3904) and HATTIGNY, the 1st Battalion leading, followed by the 3d and 2d Battalions. Stiff resistance was encountered at RICHEVAL and in the vicinity of road junction (Q411052) but HATTIGNY was cleared by 2100.

(3) The 313th Infantry, in the BIAUMONT area, moved its 2d Battalion at 0900 to the high ground at (Q365012) which it gained without resistance by 1100. The 3d and 1st Battalions closed in the same area at 1430.

b. The 44th Infantry Division advanced east from its positions beyond AVRICOURT. Operations Instructions No. 48 XV Corps, dated 19 November, attached to the 44th Infantry Division the 45th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, 45th Infantry Division, with instructions to move the troop without delay to EIBERLENIL (Q2303). The 45th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop had been previously attached to XV Corps by oral order. Employment of the 45th Reconnaissance Troop was directed to be limited to protection of the left flank of the Corps. The 45th Infantry Division and attached units was directed by Operations Instruction No. 16 Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 19 November, to be prepared to move to an area designated by the Commanding General XV Corps.

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(1) At 1030 the 71st Infantry with the 3d and 1st Battalions from right to left attacked east from positions southeast of FOUCREY (Q3504), seizing IBIGNEY (Q3805), RECHEVAL (Q3904), and NEUF-BOULINS (Q4309) by 2030. The advance was closely supported by tanks and tank destroyers and was made against moderate resistance, except at ST GEORGES where the resistance was strong. In the attack on IBIGNEY, two companies of infantry rode atop the tanks and tank destroyers. (19) The 2d Battalion moved to ST GEORGES in regimental reserve.

(2) The 324th Infantry attacked from the west edge of the BOIS DE KETZING in the direction of ST GEORGES in column of battalions, the 2d Battalion leading, the 1st and 3d Battalions following. After assisting the 71st Infantry in the capture of ST GEORGES, the 324th Infantry continued north against intermittent resistance, reaching (Q440090) - (Q442075) by 1850.

(3) The 114th Infantry in division reserve, moved to an assembly area in the BOIS DE KETZING.

c. It being evident that a breakthrough had been obtained, at 1345, the Commanding General 2d French Armored Division was directed by the Corps Commander to execute the plan set forth in Operations Instructions No. 43 XV Corps, dated 11 November. (20) This operation instruction specified that the 2d French Armored Division pass through the 79th Infantry Division, 44th Infantry Division, or both divisions to exploit the success of either or both infantry divisions to the limit of its capabilities. The Commanding General 2d French Armored Division was further directed to secure the eastern exits of the SAVERNE passes in accordance with the operations instructions.

(1) Task Force Minjonnet of CCL advanced along the CIREY- BERTRAMBOIS - NIDERHOFF road and took CIREY (V4198) and BERTRAMBOIS (Q4500) against moderate resistance and drove to within one kilometer of NIDERHOFF (Q4604). By the end of the day Task Force Nassu had advanced down the valley of the SAARE BIANCHE to (Q473013).

(2) Elements of CCV, after the capture of CIREY, sent armored reconnaissance to JA FRIMBOLLE (V4699), VAI-ET-CHATELON (V4396) and into the outskirts of BADONVILLER (V3789), where, after hard fighting, 300 prisoners were captured.

(3) CCD received orders to assemble in the BIANMONT - ST GEORGE area, which it reconnoitered, giving assistance to the 79th Infantry Division in the clearing of HATTIGNY.

(4) CCR relieved CCV at BREMENIL and continued clearing out the neighboring woods.

d. XV Corps artillery supported the ground advance, firing two counterbattery missions during the period. (Due to the marked increase in the tempo of the Corps advance and the decline in the organized character of the hostile resistance, close and continuous support by the Corps artillery was found to be impracticable.)

e. The 106th Cavalry Group was relieved of responsibility for the protection of the left flank of XV Corps west of ETANG DE RECHICOURT effective 1200 20 November by Operations Instructions No. 48 XV Corps, dated 191900 November.

(1) During the day the 106th Cavalry Squadron advanced generally north and east, occupying a line: (Q420087) - RECHICOURT (Q4007) - (Q392100), with patrols to GONDREXANGE (Q4009).

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(2) The 121st Cavalry Squadron patrolled XV Corps' left flank along the RHIN AU MARNE Canal from MOUSSAY (Q2908) to LAGARDE (Q2410).

f. Antiaircraft artillery reported two E-109's northeast of JUNEVILLE at 1232. They were unsuccessfully engaged.

g. Corps Engineers completed one class 40 Bailey bridge at (V313964), two class 70 Bailey bridges at (V277957) (permitting two-way traffic), and one class 40 steel beam bridge at (V341978). One class 40 Bailey bridge and one class 70 Bailey bridge were begun at (V325975).

h. XII TAC supported XV Corps during the period 0800 to 1645, 19 November, flying 142 sorties in close support of the infantry divisions and engaging targets of opportunity. Supply dumps, railroad traffic, bridges and tunnels, 12 locomotives, 127 railroad cars, 37 vehicles, 5 barges, 8 gun positions and 33 buildings were destroyed. P-61 night fighters operated over the Corps' zone during the hours of darkness, strafing road and railroad traffic. A-20's and B-26's, engaged targets in the HAGENAU and SAVERNE area. One P-61 and one P-47 were destroyed by enemy flak. One E-109 was destroyed by our aircraft.

i. A total of 531 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 350; the 44th Infantry Division 115; and the 79th Infantry Division 66.

20. 20 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. At 1400 20 November, Operations Instructions No. 50 XV Corps was issued modifying Operations Instructions No. 49 by cancelling the instructions covering the single motorized RCT and directing that in conjunction with the mission assigned in the earlier instructions the 79th Infantry Division (reinforced) continue the attack to the limit of its capabilities. Later in the day (2030) in answer to a request by the Commanding General 2d French Armored Division the Commanding General XV Corps directed that two rifle companies of the 79th Infantry Division move without delay to LA FRIMBOILE (V474995) for attachment to the 2d French Armored Division at that point, to assist the advance of that division by blocking the western exits from the VOSGES and to guard prisoners, the exceedingly large numbers of which were impeding the rapid advance of the division. The attached rifle companies were directed not to cross the VOSGES with the 2d French Armored Division. (21)

(1) During the day the 315th Infantry followed the 2d French Armored Division through BERTRAMBOIS (Q4400) to NIDERHOFF (Q4604).

(2) The 314th Infantry renewed the attack at 0730 from the vicinity of HATTIGNY (Q4303) and progressed without opposition to the vicinity of LANEUVEVILLE (Q4606) where contact was established with a small enemy delaying force. At NITTING (Q4808) the bridge over the SARRE ROUGE River was found to be blown and the advance of the 314th Infantry was opposed by small arms, mortar, and artillery fire. After a stiff fight the crossing was effected and NITTING cleared by 2000. (22)

(3) The 313th Infantry (motorized) was ordered at 1400 to move to the area HATTIGNY - FRAQUELLENG - NIDERHOFF. It closed after dark in that area. (23)

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b. Operations Instructions No. 49 XV Corps, dated 19 November, directed the 44th Infantry Division to continue the advance to the limit of its capabilities and to capture SARREBOURG. Further, the division was directed to exploit the success of the 2d French Armored Division in the left portion of the Corps' zone, moving forward by all available means of motor transport, save medical vehicles. One RCT was to be prepared to move on Corps order at any time after 1000 20 November; one QM truck company was made available to the division at FOULCREY at 0600 20 November. The 44th Infantry Division was to be prepared to relieve the 79th Infantry Division on the left (north) portion of the Corps' objective east of SAVERNE or to advance east or northeast from the Corps' objective on Corps order, and to protect the left (north) flank of XV Corps. The 45th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was to continue available to the division only for the protection of the left flank of the Corps. Operations Instructions No. 49 was modified by Operations Instructions No. 50 XV Corps which specified that the entire division was to move forward by motor transport and rescinded the directive for the single RCT (motorized) previously mentioned.

(1) The 71st Infantry renewed the attack to the east at 0730 and secured XOUAXANGE (Q4511), as well as the bridge there where the 2d Battalion had advanced to BEBING (Q4512). By 0930 the 1st and 3d Battalions had advanced to BEBING (Q4512). These two battalions continued to progress during the morning and reached the southwest outskirts of SARREBOURG (Q5015) by 1155. Against strong resistance the 1st and 3d Battalions then turned to the north and seized the high ground which dominated the town from the northwest. By the end of the day only sporadic opposition remained to be liquidated in the vicinity of SARREBOURG.

(2) The 324th Infantry continued its attack with two battalions at 0700, crossing the RHIN AU MARNE Canal in the vicinity of HEMING (Q4310) at 0830. The 1st Battalion later assisted the 2d French Armored Division in the capture of HAUT CLOCHER (Q4618) and the 2d Battalion seized LANGATTE (Q4317) during the afternoon. The 3d Battalion remained in the vicinity of (Q315180).

(3) The 114th Infantry remained in division reserve in the vicinity of (Q316185).

c. The 2d French Armored Division (reinforced) was directed by Operations Instructions No. 49 XV Corps to exploit its breakthrough to the limit of the division's capabilities and to seize and secure the Corps' objective east of SAVERNE until relieved by the 79th Infantry Division. Upon relief by the 79th Infantry Division the 2d French Armored Division was directed to be prepared to continue the advance in the direction of HAGENAU or to withdraw northwest to the vicinity of WEYER (Q5728) to cover the left (north) flank of XV Corps.

(1) Task Force Massu of CCL renewed the attack at 0730 and captured intact the bridge over the SARRE BIANCHE River at (Q482014) against strong resistance. At 1440 ST QUIRIN (Q5001) was captured and at 1600 WALSHEID (Q5606) was occupied. By 1830, after a brilliant maneuver and hard fighting, elements of Task Force Massu had reached DABO (Q6306). In the course of these operations, in which the enemy was completely routed, and his lines broken, the division pressed forward. Task Force Minjonnet, meanwhile, had attacked and taken NIDERHOFF (Q4604) in a stiff fight which was terminated by 0830. Two 88mm guns were destroyed and two tanks driven off in the engagement which resulted in the capture of the SARRE ROUGE River bridge (Q491067). Particularly severe artillery fire and strong resistance was encountered at VOYER (Q5106) which was taken at 1700. The remainder of CCL crossed the RHIN AU MARNE Canal at HEMING, captured HAUT CLOCHER (Q4618) with the assistance of the 324th Infantry and advanced to SARRECK (Q4721).

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(2) CCR cleared JORQUIN at 0930 and reached XOUAXANGE without resistance. Continuing to advance to the east it bypassed SARRÉBOURG to the northwest and reached the SARRE River in the vicinity of SARRATROFF (Q5019). There it crossed the river on bridges which it constructed and succeeded in occupying SARRATROFF by 1830.

(3) CCV regrouped near CIREY and moved to the vicinity of WALSHEID.

(4) CCR continued its mission of protecting the right flank of the Corps.

d. XV Corps Artillery supported the advance of the Corps with harassing fires. The 194th and 208th Field Artillery Groups displaced to the vicinity of CIREY (V4198).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued its mission of covering the Corps' left (north) flank. The advance of the 105th Cavalry Squadron was delayed until 1330 by blown bridges on the RHIN AU MARNE Canal. Elements of the squadron reached HAUT CLOCHER and LANGATTE at 1800 encountering scattered enemy groups during the advance. The 121st Cavalry Squadron was relieved of the left flank protection west of GONDREXANGE about 1200. The squadron then assembled in the vicinity of GONDREXANGE closing by 1700.

f. Corps Engineers constructed Bailey bridges at DOMEVRE (V325975), south of FREMONVILLE (V377992), and at BLAMONT (V340992), and a steel-beam bridge west of BARBAS (V341978).

g. XII TAC supported XV Corps with 4 missions of 8 sorties each prior to the closing in of bad weather at 0900. 12 motor trucks and 2 horse-drawn vehicles were destroyed. Supply dumps, two locomotives, and 15 railroad cars were damaged.

g. A total of 574 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 258; the 79th Infantry Division 130; the 44th Infantry Division 125; and Corps Troops 61.

21. 21 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division continued to advance to the east, exploiting the success of the 2d French Armored Division in the southern portion of the Corps' zone. Throughout the day resistance was scattered and disorganized with small enemy groups in isolated pockets harassing the division from the rear. (24)

(1) At 0730 CT 314 moved by motor from the NITTING area (Q4808) to the vicinity of SCHNECKENBUSCH, detrucked and advanced north and northeast on foot. The movement was held up east of HARZVILLER (Q5813) by elements of the 2d French Armored Division which encountered opposition in the town. When this opposition was overcome the advance of CT 314 continued, leading elements of the combat team reaching the vicinity of ST JEAN (Q6017) by 1810.

(2) CT 315 moved north from NIDERHOFF (Q4604) by motor at 1215. Following elements of the 2d French Armored Division the combat team reached HARZVILLER (Q5108) before dark.

(3) CT 313, less the 1st Battalion, moved by motor to the vicinity of SCHNECKENBUSCH during the day, from there advancing on foot due east. The 1st Battalion (motorized) of the regiment had been attached to the 2d French Armored Division in the zone of CCR at LAFRIBOULE (V474995), effective at 0615 as directed.

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in Operations Instructions No. 51 XV Corps, dated 21 November.

b. The 44th Infantry Division conducted extensive patrolling throughout the night and discovered that the enemy was withdrawing across its entire front.(25) At daylight the division advanced rapidly east toward the SAVERNE GAP against slight resistance.

(1). The 71st Infantry, which had attacked SARRÉBOURG on the previous day, continued the reduction of enemy resistance which consisted chiefly of sniper fire in the town. The regiment was directed to be prepared on division order to continue the advance to the east(26)

(2) The 114th Infantry moved by motors from division reserve in the vicinity of the BOIS DE KETZING (Q3708) to LORQUIN (Q4508) where it detrucked, advanced on foot and occupied the high ground in the vicinity of (Q4912). The regiment continued to the east and by 1900 had reached an area in the vicinity of (Q5518) where it halted for the night.

(3) The 1st and 2d Battalions 324th Infantry which had reached LANGATTE (Q4417) and HAUTECIOCHER (Q4618) on the previous day moved to the high ground in the vicinity of the BOIS DE RINTING (Q4515) where the 1st Battalion cleared the woods.(27) The 3d Battalion, meanwhile, occupied positions in HEMING (Q4310). During the late afternoon, the regiment less the 2d Battalion (which had reverted to division reserve) advanced to positions east of SARRALTROFF (Q5019). The 45th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop relieved the 44th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop of the mission of protecting the north flank of the division from ETANG DE RECHICOURT (Q3309) to GONDREXANGE (Q4009).

c. The 2d French Armored Division during the day swept rapidly eastward toward SAVERNE. By nightfall, elements of the division had not only outflanked the ARZWILLER (Q5813) - SAVERNE (Q7215) Pass and the PHALSBOURG (Q6519) - SAVERNE Pass from the north and south but reconnaissance units had debouched into the eastern valley beyond these passes.

(1) Task Force Massu of CCI advanced from DABO (Q6306) against strong enemy resistance, captured LA HOUBE (Q6506) at 1300 and reached an enemy strong point at (Q673058) about 1430. Continuing the advance Task Force Massu occupied OBERSTEIGEN (Q6844) at 1500, thus clearing the southern route through the VOSGES. At 2020 the task force debouched from the woods, sending reconnaissance elements northeast into the valley.(J21-96) Task Force Minjonnet of CCI operating further to the west moved from VOYER (Q5106) and captured BIBERKIRCH (Q5408) after a violent fight in which 4 enemy tanks were destroyed. By 1000 Task Force Minjonnet had reached TROIS FONTAINES (Q5509) and established contact with elements of CCV. Strong reconnaissance was pushed toward GUNTZVILLER (Q5712) and the town was occupied by the end of the day.

(2) CCV moved from CIREY (Q4197) following Task Force Massu. The 1st Battalion 313th Infantry attached to this combat command established road blocks from (Q572056) to (Q496006).

(3) Task Force Quilichini moved from SARRALTROFF (Q5019) in the morning, rapidly clearing HILBESHEIM (Q5320) and LIXHEIM (Q5619). The advance continued to the east and entered HERANGE (Q5815). Enemy resistance was overcome at MITTELBRONN (Q6219) and strong reconnaissance pushed in the direction of PHALSBOURG (Q6418) where a large and well-defended tank ditch was encountered just west of the town.

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At the close of the day fighting continued in the MITTELBRONN - PHALSBOURG area. Task Force Rouvillois crossed the SARRE at OBERSTINZEL (Q4821) and advancing quickly to the northeast occupied HELLERING (Q5023), RAUWILLER (Q5423), SCHALBACH (Q5825), SIEWILLER (Q6127) and PETERSBACH (Q6530). At 1730 strong reconnaissance was sent toward LA PETITE PIERRE (Q6928). At the end of the day the task force was advancing toward the NEUVILLER - DOSSENHEIM area. (28)

(4) CCR protected the right flank and rear of the division. (29)

d. XV Corps Artillery rendered practically no fire support during the period. This was due in part to lack of targets but mainly to the rapidity with which leading elements of the Corps advanced.

e. The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron advanced north against light opposition to occupy GOERLINGEN (Q5222), KIRBERG (Q5025), BAERENDORF (Q5226) and HIRSCHLAND (Q5426). The 121st Cavalry Squadron advanced north, passing through elements of the 106th Cavalry Squadron to occupy WEYER (Q5728), EYWILLER (Q5530), DRULINGEN (Q6029) and the road junction at (Q554284).

f. Antiaircraft artillery reported 2 ME-109's in the vicinity of (Q442081) but no claims of destruction were made.

g. XV Corps Engineers completed one class 40 70-foot span DS Bailey bridge at 1115 at BLAMONT (V3499). Another Bailey bridge at (Q429101) was completed at 1600. Roads were swept for mines.

h. XII TAC supported XV Corps with thirty-two sorties. 17 motor vehicles, 3 horse-drawn vehicles, 5 locomotives and 80 railroad cars were reported destroyed and 2 locomotives reported damaged. 5 missions, totalling 54 planes, were returned to base because of bad weather.

i. A total of 1365 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 1000; the 44th Infantry Division 288; and the 79th Infantry Division 77.

22. 22 NOVEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued to pour armor and infantry through the VOSGES Mountains and by 22 November it was apparent that the breakthrough had assumed major proportions. The Commanding General XV Corps desiring to exploit the situation to the utmost, issued Field Order 12 XV Corps, at 1100, expanding the missions previously assigned. He directed XV Corps not to halt on the bridgehead east of the SAVERNE GAP, but to continue east and capture HAGENAU (R0324) and SOUFFLENHEIM (R1625), occupy the position de MUTZIG (V7994), assist the VI Corps in the capture of STRASSBOURG, protect the left flank of Seventh Army and reconnoiter the RHINE between STRASSBOURG and MUNCHHOUSE, taking advantage of any opportunity to cross the river.

a. The 79th Infantry Division was directed to advance rapidly in the division zone, assisting the 2d French Armored Division in the capture of STRASSBOURG by action from the north, or to assist the 44th Infantry Division in the capture of HAGENAU (Q120324) and SOUFFLENHEIM (R1625). It was further directed to reconnoiter the RHINE between STRASSBOURG (excl) and GAMBESHEIM (Q1110) (incl).

(1) CT 315 advanced from ~~HANGVILLER (Q5120)~~ at 0725, encountering defended roadblocks and felled trees ~~in the vicinity of ST LOUIS (Q5913)~~. It continued to advance and reached the vicinity of (Q621135) by 1745.

(2) CT 314 was ordered to move from the vicinity of (Q6017) to ~~MITTLE-GROMN (Q6219)~~ in order to relieve elements of the 2d French Armored Division there. As the 2d French Armored Division did not move from its positions, CT 314 did not effect the planned relief but reinforced the 2d French Armored Division with two rifle companies and part of Company "D". These elements of CT 314 moved forward against no opposition.

b. The 44th Infantry Division was directed by Field Order 12 to capture HAGENAU (R0324) and SOUFFLENHEIM (R1625), reconnoiter the RHINE between GAMBESHEIM (excl) and MUNCHHOUSE (Q3035) (incl), and protect the left flank of Corps east of the VOSGES from the north of FORET de HAGUENAU with not less than one RCT.

(1) The 114th Infantry attacked in its zone at 0715 with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast. The 3d Battalion advanced against little opposition until it reached VESCHEIM (Q6322) where, with the assistance of tanks, it seized the town, taking a large number of prisoners. It then continued its advance to the east. The 2d Battalion advanced rapidly until it encountered strong enemy resistance in the vicinity of VILSBERG (Q6521) where it was engaged for the rest of the day. The 1st Battalion closed in the vicinity of (Q630200).

(2) The 324th Infantry (less 2d Battalion) advanced from SARRELTROFF (Q5120) and secured HANGVILLER (Q6423), SCHOENBOURG (Q6628), and HUST (Q6426). The north-south road through crossroads (Q668247) was outposted, protecting the western approaches to the ZIMMIS-VILLER Pass. The 2d Battalion (motorized), initially in division reserve, was attached to the 2d French Armored Division at RAUVILLER (Q5423) at 1600.

(3) The 71st Infantry moved to GOERLINGEN (Q5222) and outposted the towns of SIEWILLER (Q6127), BAERENDORF (Q5326) and ST JEAN DE BASSEL (Q4523).

c. The 2d French Armored Division (reinforced) was directed by Field Order 12 to clear the following routes of the enemy:

ARZVILLER (Q5713) - SAVERNE (Q7215), PHALSBOURG (Q6418) - SAVERNE (Q7215), PHALSBOURG (Q6418) - ST JEAN SAVERNE (Q7219), HANGVILLER (Q6223) - DOSSENHEIM (Q7522).

The division was further directed to close all of its combat elements south of the ZORN River and on Corps order to attack and assist VI Corps in the capture of STRASSBOURG. In the event that the division arrived in the vicinity of STRASSBOURG before the arrival of VI Corps, the 2d French Armored Division was directed to capture the city. The division was also to protect the right flank of XV Corps east of the VOSGES.

(1) In the zone of the 2d French Armored Division CCV took MARMOUTIER (Q7410) at 1430, and contacted the enemy west of ROMANSWILLER (Q7505) at 1545. REUTENBOURG (Q7509) was occupied without resistance by 2000. CCL with elements of CCV occupied SAVERNE at 1545 and Task Force Minjonnet of CCL moved west through the mountains, cleaning out enemy resistance and reaching a position just east of PHALSBOURG (Q6418). It also took WALDOLISHEIM (Q7814) and SCHWEINHEIM (Q7612).

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G); Rpt After Action for Nov 44, dtd 23 Jan 45, Cont'd.

CCD (less Task Force Quilinchini) crossed the VOSGES via PETITE PIERRE (Q7028), WETTERSWILLER (Q7628), NEUWILLER (Q7525), DOSSENHEIM (Q7523) and established liaison with CCL at ROMSWILLER (Q7417) at 1300. Task Force Quilinchini reached a point just west of PHALSBOURG (Q6418). At the end of the day the division occupied the high ground east of SAVERIE in strength and had taken over 900 prisoners. CCV occupied positions in the neighborhood of HENSWILLER (Q705075).

d. The 45th Infantry Division (less one RCT reinforced) had been directed by Field Order 11 XV Corps to concentrate on Corps order in Corps reserve in the vicinity of BACCARAT prepared to advance on Corps order. Field Order 12 XV Corps directed the 45th Infantry Division to move under control of Seventh Army to (Q650250) or (Q800270) less one RCT. At 1010 on 22 November, a field message sent to the Commanding General 45th Infantry Division by the Commanding General XV Corps directed the immediate movement of one RCT to the vicinity of ROMANSWILLER (Q7506). (30) RCT 179 was designated and also directed to be prepared on Corps order to move east from ROMANSWILLER with the mission of capturing the POSITION DE MUTZIG; it was then to fan south and southwest blocking the eastern exits of the mountain passes in that vicinity and preventing any Germans from escaping to the east. At the end of the day RCT 179 was in the vicinity of CIREY (V4198) where the regiment stopped for the night.

e.. CCA of the 14th Armored Division which had been attached to the VI Corps on 22 November with mission of advancing southeast along the VALLE DU BLANC RUPT to an objective in the vicinity of BAREMBACH (V6286) was attached to XV Corps at 1530 by telephoned orders from the Commanding General Seventh Army to the Commanding General XV Corps. (31) CCA was directed to proceed with its current mission, if practicable, if not, to follow the 2d French Armored Division through the passes and turn south on the mission assigned RCT 179 of the 45th Infantry Division. CCA was continued on its VI Corps mission, the head of the column reaching the vicinity of (Q500995) by 1200. There it ran into roadblocks but continued to push forward.

f. The Corps artillery displaced forward on this date. Due to the continued rapid advance of leading elements of the Corps no fire support was rendered.

g. During the day the 106th Cavalry Group took more than 100 prisoners and captured or destroyed 1 tank, 1 armored car, 12 motor trucks and 11 guns. The group CP moved to SIEWILLER (Q6127), closing at 1600.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Squadron advanced to the north, occupying the towns of POSTROFF (Q5228) and ESCHWILLER (Q5429), encountering moderate resistance and intense artillery fire in that area during the afternoon. Troop B with attached tank destroyers engaged an enemy column moving on POSTROFF with good results.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Squadron moved to the north and east against light resistance but encountered moderate resistance in the vicinity of BOTTWILLER (Q5932) and DURSTEL (Q6032). Troop C advanced to TIEFFENBACH (Q6434).

h. XII TAC supported XV Corps from 0800 to 0830, unfavorable weather preventing further support. Railroad rolling stock and motor transportation in the target area were bombed and strafed.

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i. A total of 1689 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 1000; the 44th Infantry Division 489; the 79th Infantry Division 83; Corps Troops 11; and CCA 14th Armored Division 3.

23. 23 NOVEMBER 1944:

The VOSGES Mountains, at right angles to the Corps axis of advance, formed a natural barrier which divided the Corps zone into two zones of action. As the Corps continued its advance beyond this terrain obstacle, rapidly moving units to the east, it was forced also to provide for its security west of the mountains and in particular for its left (north) flank. During the afternoon, increased pressure on the front of the 106th Cavalry Group gave evidence of an increasing enemy build-up coming generally from the northwest. G-2 XV Corps stated that this probably was the 1st Battalion of the 902d Panzer Grenadier Regiment reinforced by tanks from the 130th Panzer Regiment (both regiments from the 130th Panzer Lehr Division). Late in the afternoon, these units commenced an attack on the left flank of XV Corps. XV Corps CP at SARREBOURG was within 6 kilometers of this enemy action. To prevent the headquarters' being overrun by rapidly moving enemy armor the personnel of Headquarters Company XV Corps, XV Corps MP Platoon, the Guard Platoon furnished by Company G, 71st Infantry, and the 1109th Engineer Combat Group were organized to defend the CP on the night of 23 November. Bazooka teams occupied positions overlooking the roads, riflemen and bazooka teams outposted the CP proper and on the outskirts of the town outposts were formed by the 1109th Engineer Combat Group. These positions were occupied until the enemy threat was checked some four days later.

a. In the zone of the 79th Infantry Division the advance to the east continued.

(1) The 315th Infantry, following CCD of the 2d French Armored Division, attacked at 0730 and cleared HENRIDORF (Q6115) of light opposition. The regiment then advanced to LUTZELBOURG (Q6415) with the 1st and 3d Battalions leading, the 1st Battalion on the right followed by the 2d Battalion to the left rear. The resistance was intermittent, the major opposition to the advance consisting of road obstacles and destroyed bridges.

(2) The 314th Infantry attacked PHAISBOURG (Q6418) from the west to assist elements of the 2d French Armored Division's CCD in the east of the town. The large tank ditch on the western outskirts of PHAISBOURG was bridged, and contact was made with the French forces at 1055, at which time the 314th Infantry reported the collapse of all resistance. (32) The regiment then moved without opposition to an assembly area in the zone of CCD northeast of SAVERNE (Q7417).

(3) The 3d Battalion 313th Infantry following in the rear of the 2d French Armored Division occupied HAZELBOURG (Q6009) and the road from road junction (Q603096) to SPARBROD (Q6112) by 1200 without opposition. At 1830 the battalion was released by the 2d French Armored Division and reverted to the command of the 79th Infantry Division. The 1st Battalion at PEUTENBOURG (Q7509) was relieved from attachment to the 2d French Armored Division at 0900 and passed to Corps Control, as directed by Operations Instructions XV Corps dated 22 November. There was no change in the dispositions of the 2d Battalion.

b. Elements of the 44th Infantry Division, in the left of XV Corps' zone, occupied positions facing north and east.**

**See Inclosure No. 2.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Nov 44, dtd 23 Jan 45, Cont'd.

(1) The 3d Battalion 114th Infantry reached the regimental objective in the vicinity of (Q6524) during the night of 22-23 November. The 2d Battalion engaged the enemy in the vicinity of VILSBERG where it overcame the hostile resistance after a short fight. Followed by the 1st Battalion it advanced to the regimental objective which it reached during the early morning. At the end of the day the regiment was outposting the line: SCHALBACH (Q5824) - BUST (Q6325) - SCHOENBOURG (Q6325).

(2) The 324th Infantry (less the 2d Battalion which was attached to the 2d French Armored Division) (33) advanced rapidly through the ESCHBOURG - DOSSENHEIM Pass (Q6323) and established a bridgehead east of DOSSENHEIM (Q7522). The quick advance surprised the enemy and resulted in the capture of much equipment and many supplies and prisoners.

(3) The 71st Infantry remained in the vicinity of GOERLINGEN (Q5222).

c. The 2d French Armored Division like a tidal wave, rolled on to the east, through the mountain passes and toward the RHINE.

(1) CCI, in its rapid advance, seized DINGSTEIN at 0920 and VENDERHEIM shortly thereafter. Sous Groupment Massu was held up by strong resistance, but Sous Groupment Rouvillois was able to reach STRASSBOURG by 1130. With great dash and intrepidity, Sous Groupment Rouvillois swept rapidly through the city, surprising the defenders of the western approaches to the PONT DE KHEL over the RHINE who were forced to withdraw. A few hundred yards short of the bridge, the advance was halted by very heavy antitank gunfire. Other elements of CCI secured several small bridges across the RHIN-AU-MARNE Canal and commenced mopping up the town.

(34)

(2) CCV entered STRASSBOURG at 1300, meeting heavy resistance at HURTIGHEIM (Q9101) and STUTZHEIM (Q9103) enroute. After arriving at STRASSBOURG, CCV, with the aid of the 1st Battalion 313th Infantry (previously attached to the 2d French Armored Division) which had accompanied the combat command on the orders of the Commanding General 2d French Armored Division, began a methodical reduction of isolated pockets of resistance within the city.

(3) CCR passed through ROMANSWILLER (Q7605) at 0930 and took WASSELONNE (Q7804) after a sharp fight. It later occupied the high ground southeast of WASSELONNE where it remained during the night.

(4) CCD maintained patrols east and southeast of the passes in the vicinity of SAVERNE.

d. The 179th PCT 45th Infantry Division advanced from CIREY (Q4198) to WASSELONNE and posted patrols in the direction of WESTHOFFEN (Q7800).

e. CCA 14th Armored Division encountered numerous roadblocks intermittently defended by the enemy along its route of advance. Nevertheless, one column had reached (V577948) - (V585950) and the second (V490974) - (V505984) by the end of the day. Patrols were in the vicinity of (V5296) and other patrols from the 94th Cavalry Squadron reached (V3992).

f. XV Corps artillery fired sixteen harassing and interdiction missions throughout the night in the vicinity of BAERENDORF (Q5226), POSTROFF (Q5228), EYEWILLER (Q5530) and BERG (Q5735). Harassing missions were fired at tanks on request of the 106th Cavalry Group and the 44th Division Artillery.

g. The 106th Cavalry Squadron covered the left flank of XV Corps west of the VOSGES. Late in the afternoon, elements of the 902d Panzer Grenadier Regiment struck from the northwest in what eventually became a large scale attack upon the left flank of XV Corps.

(1) About 1630 the enemy attacked ESCHWILLER (Q5429) and EYEWILLER (Q5530) forcing withdrawal of Troops C and A, 106th Cavalry Squadron, respectively. This withdrawal caused Troop B's position at POSTROFF (Q5228) to become untenable, forcing it to withdraw also. At the close of the period the squadron was holding BAERENDORF (Q5226), HIRSCHLAND (Q5426) and WEYER (Q5728). The 106th Cavalry Group, maintained liaison with elements of the 2d Cavalry (XII Corps) at BERTHELMING (Q4624).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Squadron advanced to occupy the towns of BETTWILLER (Q5932) and ADAMSWILLER (Q4135) but withdrew in the late afternoon to be on line with the 106th Cavalry Squadron. At the close of the period, this squadron was occupying the towns of DRULINGEN (Q6030), ASSWILLER (Q6231), DURSTEL (Q6132), STRUTH (Q6432) and TIEFFENBACH (Q6434).

h. XV Corps Engineers removed demolition charges from the following bridges: the railroad bridges at (Q487148), (Q491153), (Q503160) and (Q512164); and the bridges over the SAARE at (Q496152), (Q496153), (Q496155). Roads were swept for mines from (V390999) to HATTIGNY, and from CIREY-SUR-VEZOUSE to BERTRAMBOIS.

i. XII TAC was unable to support XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions.

j. A total of 2925 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 2000; the 44th Infantry Division 293; the 79th Infantry Division 618; CCA 14th Armored Division 12; and Corps Troops 2.

24. 24 NOVEMBER 1944:

The Corps continued its advance beyond the VOSGES, until by the end of the day the 2d French Armored Division, the 79th Infantry Division, elements of the 45th Infantry Division and the 324th Infantry were in that portion of the Corps' zone east of the mountains. To meet the enemy attack which had developed on the north flank the previous day the 44th Infantry Division (less the 324th Infantry), the bulk of the 45th Infantry Division and the 106th Cavalry Group were on the western side of the SAVERNE Pass. The 106th Cavalry Group, which had borne the brunt of the initial enemy thrust, reported that elements of the group held the line: STRUTH (Q6532) - ASSWILLER (Q6231) - DRULINGEN (Q6030). Throughout the day the cavalry continued heavily engaged in its area.

On this same day General Eisenhower visited XV Corps command post at SARREBOURG. XV Corps mission was changed by his verbal orders to Army Group and Army from an advance east to an advance generally towards the north astride the VOSGES Mountains. This new mission became effective immediately.

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Jtr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Nov 44, dtd 23 Jan 45, Cont'd.

a. The 79th Infantry Division advancing east through the VOSGES on the night of 23-24 November had been temporarily halted because of the enemy threat to the left flank of XV Corps west of the mountains. At 0640 the division was instructed to continue the advance to the east and shortly after daylight it was again on the move.

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(1) The 315th Infantry moved on foot through the JUTZWILLER - SAVERNE Pass and was picked up enroute and transported in motors to the regimental assembly area. The regiment closed in the vicinity of (Q9718) by 2100. Elements reconnoitered to the northeast and found UHLWILLER (Q9524) and NIEDERALTDORF (Q9423) clear of enemy.

(2) The 313th Infantry, in the transport used by the 315th Infantry, moved east through the PHAISBOURG - SAVERNE Pass, arriving in SAVERNE by 1130. The regiment then continued by motor, over two routes, to an assembly area south of HAGUENAU, in the vicinity of (R0213) which it reached shortly after 1230.

(3) The 314th Infantry which had crossed through the mountains the previous day moved by motors from the vicinity of SAVERNE to GEUDERTHEIM (R0113). Enroute the motor column was attacked five times by from four to seven enemy planes.

(4) The entire movement east of the VOSGES was subjected to numerous air attacks during the day. No ground opposition was encountered until the arrival of the division at its assembly area where determined hostile resistance developed in the vicinity of ROTTELSHEIM (Q9817).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued its operations both to the east and to the west of the VOSGES Mountains during the period. **

(1) The 324th Infantry (less the 2d Battalion attached to the 2d French Armored Division) maintained the bridgehead at the eastern exit of the ESCHBOURG - DOSSETHEIM Pass through the VOSGES. Other than aggressive patrolling, there was little action throughout the day. Nevertheless, 615 prisoners who had been bypassed and isolated by elements of the Corps during the preceding day, and an undetermined amount of enemy equipment were captured.

(2) The 71st Infantry on the west of the VOSGES Mountains and in the mid-left of the Corps zone, occupied positions facing north from (Q548238) to (Q540242) to (Q535235) in order to counter the enemy threat from that direction. An enemy attack in the morning forced elements of the regiment to withdraw from RAUVILLER. However, the town was retaken and the lines restored prior to dark.

(3) The 114th Infantry after halting at the western approaches to the ESCHBOURG - DOSSETHEIM Pass because of the enemy threat to the left flank west of the VOSGES, moved back and occupied positions from (Q600260) to (Q545240) to the right of the 71st Infantry. The enemy attack did not extend into the sector of the 114th Infantry, hence the regiment was not in contact with the enemy but supported operations of the 71st Infantry with artillery fire and maintained contact with it by patrols.

c. The 45th Infantry Division advanced from the south as planned.

**See Inclosure No. 2.

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(1) The 179th Infantry (reinforced) continued the attack south on MUTZIG (Q7993) against intermittent resistance, principally of artillery fire. At 1030 leading elements reached BERSCHENBRUNNEN at 1830 were on the outskirts of the MUTZIG defensive positions along the line: (Q805950) - (Q800946) - (Q395950) - (Q788950) where the regiment met increasing resistance.

(2) The 180th Infantry moved from the Seventh Army rest area west of BAINS IES BAINS through the VOSGES Mountains to an assembly area at (Q860115), closing by mid-afternoon.

(3) The 157th Infantry moved from the BAINS IES BAINS rest area to an assembly area northwest of SARREBOURG, in the vicinity of DOLVING (Q4719), where it closed before dark. While enroute the regiment was diverted to this vicinity because of the increasing enemy attack northeast of SARREBOURG. The Division CP opened in SARREBOURG at 1500.

d. The 2d French Armored Division operated east of the VOSGES Mountains from the areas it had previously reached.

(1) CCR, moving toward BRUSCHWICKERSHEIM (Q8997) was given the mission of preventing the enemy from crossing the BAUCHE CANAL between ERNOLSHEIM (V8796) and WOLFSHEIM (V9498). Strong patrols advancing south reached MOLSHEIM (V8193) at 1600 and found it unoccupied.

(2) Elements of CCD operated to the west of STRASSBOURG, cleaning up isolated enemy pockets between STRASSBOURG and SAVERNE.

(3) CCL continued mopping up in STRASSBOURG, dispatching strong reconnaissance patrols to the north and northeast of the city.

(4) CCV assisted in the reduction of enemy resistance in STRASSBOURG. Reconnaissance patrols from the unit, operating to the south and southwest, reached MOLSHEIM (V8193).

e. CCD 14th Armored Division continued the advance to the southeast in two columns through the FORET DE ST QUIRIN. Numerous road blocks had to be cleared in order to continue. Enemy resistance was intermittent during the early part of the period but increased considerably throughout the day. At 2300 the head of the columns reached (V5988) where the combat command was instructed to halt to keep from interfering with the movement of VI Corps.

f. XV Corps artillery fired harassing missions in support of the 44th Division Artillery. Headquarters XV Corps Artillery displaced to SAVERNE (Q7215) during the day.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group, on the left flank of XV Corps and west of the VOSGES, received the full force of the enemy attack.

(1) Commencing in the early morning hours and continuing until 0700 the 106th Cavalry Squadron, which occupied the line BAERENDORF (Q5226) - HIRSCHLAND (Q5426) - WEYER (Q5728), was strongly attacked from the north by tanks and supporting infantry. Elements of the squadron were forced to draw back to the south-east of RAUWILLER (Q5423), to SCHALBACH and to STEWILLER (Q6127). In the afternoon, SCHALBACH and STEWILLER were reoccupied.

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(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the positions it had occupied the previous day until 1000 when elements of the squadron fell back from DURSTEL (Q6032) to ASSWILLER (Q6231) because of strong enemy action. TIEFFENBACH (Q6434) was also vacated at 2200 but elements in DRULINGEN (Q5929) remained in contact with the enemy throughout the period, receiving a great amount of artillery fire. At the end of the day, the 121st Squadron occupied DRULINGEN, ASSWILLER and PETERSBACH.

h. Antiaircraft artillery engaged 24 ME-109's which strafed our moving columns. No airplanes were shot down.

i. Corps Engineers continued their program of road maintenance and mine clearing. The 1101st Engineer Combat Group completed a 60-foot double span bridge at (Q613138), an 80-foot double span bridge at (Q622133), and a 60-foot double span, at (Q593139). Class 40 double span bridges were completed also at (Q629139) and (Q595140).

j. XII TAC was unable to support XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions, particularly at bases, which prevented planes from getting into the air.

k. During the period of imminent attack on the northern flank of XV Corps, XII Corps' 4th Armored Division was advancing toward SARRE UNION (Q5238) along the left boundary of XV Corps. To avoid unfavorable terrain west of FENETRANGE (Q4727) in the zone of the XII Corps the Commanding General XII Corps requested and received permission for the 4th Armored Division to enter the zone of XV Corps north and south of FENETRANGE. Elements of this division therefore were in a position to assist XV Corps action against the German attack and the Commanding General 4th Armored Division agreed to aid as much as possible while still continuing on his own mission. During the day elements of the 4th Armored Division crossed the SARRE River at GOSSELMING (Q4621) and ROMELFING (Q4725) and early in the afternoon CCB made contact with the enemy at POSTROFF (Q5128) and BAERENDORF (Q5226). Task Forces to the north and south of BAERENDORF joined to attack it while containing POSTROFF. Late in the afternoon, BAERENDORF was cleared. CCB at this time was heavily engaged at POSTROFF as well as on the high ground at (Q530276).

(1) CCA assembled in the vicinity of BIDESTROFF (Q3028) prepared to move east across the SARRE at GOFFELMING and ROMELFING.

(2) CCR occupied an assembly area at KERPRICH-LES-DIEUZE (Q2425).

l. A total of 1822 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 1000; the 44th Infantry Division captured 615; and the 79th Infantry Division 207.

25. 25 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division, north and northwest of STRASSBOURG, consolidated its positions.

(1) The 2d Battalion of the 313th Infantry which had moved to the vicinity of WEYERSHEIM (R0413) on the ~~previous day~~ was relieved by elements of the 315th Infantry in whose zone WEYERSHEIM was included. Moving by motor, the 2d Battalion 313th Infantry closed in its own regimental area to the east of WEYERSHEIM. It

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attacked and captured GRIES (RQ917) and the 3d Battalion, on the left of the 2d Battalion, occupied WEIBRUCK (RQ317), sending patrols to the woods north of the town. The 1st Battalion was attached to Task Force "T", a force organized by Headquarters Sixth Army Group to secure public utilities in STRASSBOURG, and took over guard duties in the city.

(2) The 1st and 3d Battalions of the 315th Infantry advanced northeast from their positions in the vicinity of (Q9718) to secure the high ground to their front. In attacking KREIGSHEIM (Q9917) the 3d Battalion met heavy resistance consisting of small arms and fire from flat trajectory weapons. (36) The battalion overcame the resistance after a stiff fight and captured the town. The 2d Battalion remained in the vicinity of (Q962130).

(3) The 314th Infantry remained in reserve near GEUDERTHEIM (R0114) reconnoitering and patrolling on the left flank of the division.

b. The 44th Infantry Division (less the 324th Infantry) remained west of the VOSGES, and during the period received heavy enemy attacks from the north.**

(1) In the zone of the 114th Infantry, enemy tanks and foot troops attacked the 2d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q595250) at 0900. Elements of the battalion were overrun and their position penetrated by enemy armor which promptly withdrew when its support infantry was pinned down. One enemy tank was destroyed by antitank fire. Shortly after this attempt, the enemy regrouped and stuck again the same area, with twenty-two tanks. These tanks took up a position in front of the 2d Battalion, from which they continued to fire. By 1130 five enemy tanks had been destroyed and the remainder forced to withdraw into defilade. Practically all hostile small arms fire stopped by noon. (37) The 1st Battalion remained in position near (Q615260). The 3d Battalion passed to regimental reserve at 1010, at which time it was ordered to an assembly area in the vicinity of BICKENHOLTZ (Q580230).

(2) The 1st Battalion of the 71st Infantry maintained its position (Q510240) near RAUWILLER throughout the period. Elements of the 2d Battalion in the southern part of the town were compelled to withdraw because of a determined attack by armor and infantry. Elements of the 3d Battalion were also forced out at 1100. The battalions occupied positions at (Q538240) and (Q533285) respectively at the end of the period.

(3) The 157th Infantry (45th Infantry Division) was attached to the 44th Infantry Division at 0915 and closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of BROUVILLER. The 1st Battalion, further attached to the 71st Infantry, commenced the attack on RAUWILLER at 1630, supported by tanks.

(4) There was no change in the disposition of the 324th Infantry which continued to hold a bridgehead northeast of the SAVERNE Pass.

c. The 45th Infantry Division (less the 157th and 179th Infantry) moving up from the south, closed its 180th Infantry Regiment in an assembly area in the vicinity of GOUGENHEIM (Q8711), sending patrols southeast to STRASSBOURG and northeast to BRUMATH without making enemy contact.

(1) The 179th Infantry, on the XV Corps south flank, after successfully attacking the POSITION de MUTZIG (V8096), pushed elements to the west where they made contact with the 3d Battalion of the 15th Infantry at (V779937) at 1800. (38)

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d. The 2d French Armored Division in and around STRASSBOURG continued mopping up the city and patrolling to the north, south and east.

(1) CCL sent elements to capture Forts PETAIN (Q960018) and FOCH (Q968010) which were found to be evacuated. Other elements reconnoitered to the west without making contact with the enemy.

(2) CCL attacked Fort NEY ((R045043) whose commandant, after parley, refused to surrender. Heavy artillery concentrations and direct tank fire was then placed upon the fort embrasures and walls following which the Chief of Staff to the German General commanding the STRASSBOURG garrison surrendered. 600 to 700 prisoners were taken including the Commanding General of the garrison who was also the Military Governor of STRASSBOURG.

(3) CCV reconnoitered to GIESPOLSHEIM (V9390), captured the garrison of FEGERSHEIM (V9688) and found Fort URICH (V990901) evacuated and in flames.

(4) CCR reconnoitered in force to INNENHEIM (V8888) and ROSHEIM (V8088).

e. CCA of the 14th Armored Division which had been operating on the right flank of XV Corps was relieved from operational attachment to XV Corps and attached to VI Corps, effective upon its establishment of contact with elements of the 3d Infantry Division. This contact was made at 1000.

f. XV Corps artillery fired harassing and interdiction missions in support of the 44th and 79th Infantry Divisions on tank and infantry concentrations in their zones. Headquarters XV Corps Artillery displaced at 1330 to WALTENHEIM (Q9216).

g. In the zone of the 106th Cavalry Group, the 106th Cavalry Squadron received a strong tank and infantry attack near SCHALBACH (Q5825).

(1) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Squadron moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of PHAISBOURG (Q6518); others covered the exits of the mountain pass in the vicinity of HANGVILLIER (Q6323) until 2200 when they moved through the pass to the vicinity of DOSSENHEIM (Q7522) in support of the 324th Infantry.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Squadron held the general line: PETERSBACH (Q6530) - STRUTH (Q6432) - ASSWILLER (Q6231) - DRULINGEN (Q5929) after Troop C had been forced to withdraw from TIEFFENBACH (Q6433) to STRUTH by enemy infantry infiltrating through its lines.

h. Antiaircraft artillery engaged 5 flights of enemy aircraft, totalling 17 enemy planes in the zone. 2 ME-109's were destroyed and 3 were damaged.

i. XV Corps Engineers constructed three bridges; one 80-foot double single Bailey bridge at ARZVILLIER (Q629139), a steel stringer bridge in LUTZELBOURG (Q643152), and a steel stringer bridge at (Q707147), and continued the removal of mines from the SAAREBOURG railroad stations.

j. XII TAC supported XV Corps with 183 close support sorties. In the zone of the 2d French Armored Division, 100 sorties were flown in which trucks, railroad rolling stock and rails were bombed and strafed. 56 sorties were flown in the zone of the 79th Infantry Division, and 75 in the zone of the 44th Infantry Division.

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During the day 2 tanks, 26 motor vehicles, 2 locomotives, 8 railroad cars, 2 bridges, 10 ME-109's and 1 FW-190 were destroyed.

k. Hard fighting at POSTROFF (Q5128) continued during the day and retarded the rapid northward progress of the 4th Armored Division. CCB, still heavily engaged, was unable to advance and its reserve which had occupied NIEDERSTINZEL (Q4829) was forced by very heavy artillery fire to withdraw to the southwest outskirts of the town.

(1) CCA crossed the SARRE at ROMELFING and GOSSELMING, moving toward OTTWILIER and DRULINGEN.

(2) CCR remained at KIRPBERG (Q5025).

1. A total of 3338 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 1500; the 79th Infantry Division captured 872; the 44th Infantry Division 432; the 45th Infantry Division 406; and Corps Troops 128.

26. 26 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. During the day the 79th Infantry Division made limited objective attacks south and west of HAGUENAU. At 2230 the division in position to the south and west of HAGUENAU was directed by Operations Instructions No. 53 XV Corps to continue its mission, the capture of HAGUENAU (R0524) and SOUFFLENHEIM (R1625), in accordance with oral instructions of the Commanding General XV Corps.

(1) The 314th Infantry relieved the 313th Infantry occupying the line from KURTZENHAUSEN to WEITBRUCH.

(2) The 313th Infantry (less 1st Battalion which comprised a part of Task Force "T" at STRASBOURG) reverted to division reserve in the vicinity of BRULIATH.

(3) The 315th Infantry at KREIGSHHEIM and northwest of ROTTLESHEIM improved its positions during the period.

b. The 44th Infantry Division, west of the VOSGES Mountains (less the 324th Infantry which was northeast of SAVERNE) was directed by Operations Instructions No. 53 to continue the attack to the north in accordance with previous oral instructions of the Commanding General XV Corps. RCT 157 was to be relieved from attachment to the 44th Infantry Division at 0700 27 November. The 324th Infantry (less the 2d Battalion) was to be relieved by RCT 157 on the arrival of the combat team east of the VOSGES, and the 324th Infantry (less the 2d Battalion) was to be brought west of the VOSGES. The 2d Battalion was in STRASBOURG, attached to the 2d French Armored Division and engaged in mopping up the city.

(1) In the zone of the 71st Infantry the 1st Battalion of the 157th Infantry (attached to the 71st Infantry) supported by Company C 749th Tank Battalion resumed the attack at 0800 with the mission of retaking RAUWILLER (Q5323). The town was occupied against little resistance by 0927.

(2) There was no change in position throughout the remainder of the division. Slight losses in ground incurred during the previous period were made up and patrolling was continued. (39)

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c. The 45th Infantry Division was directed by Operations Instructions No. 53 to prevent a debouchment of the enemy to the east from VOSGES passes between the RHIN AU MARNE Canal and INGWILLER (Q8130), to hold the SAVERNE Gap bridgehead and to be prepared to attack to the northeast in the division zone on Corps order. RCT 157 was to be relieved from its attachment to the 44th Infantry Division and to revert to the control of the 45th Infantry Division at 0700 27 November and to be moved east of the VOSGES Mountains.

(1) During the day the 179th Infantry moved north by motor from the POSITION de MUTZIG (Q7994) and closed in its new area near OBERMODERN (Q871115) at 1630.

(2) The 180th Infantry moved from GOUGENHEIM to its new area near BOUXWILLER (Q8124) commencing at 1400 and closing prior to 2400.

d. The 2d French Armored Division in STRASBOURG continued patrolling and mopping up the city. Operations Instructions No. 53 directed the division to be prepared to be relieved by units of VI Corps in STRASBOURG on 27 November. The 2d Battalion 324th Infantry was directed to revert to unit control and to join the regiment upon the passing of the 2d French Armored Division to the control of VI Corps.

(1) CCR, with the 2d Battalion 324th Infantry attacked, gained and held the bridges over the BRUCHE Canal between ERGERSHEIM (Q8496), HANGENBIETEN (V9195), ACHENHEIM (V9197) and WOLFISHEIM (V9598). Elements of the combat command occupied the villages of ALTORF (V8491), DUTTENHEIM (V8791) and ITTENHEIM (V8788) and sent strong reconnaissance patrols towards MEISTRATZHEIM (V8583), OBERNAI (V8184) and ROSHEIM.

(2) CCV patrolled in the direction of DRAUTERGERSHEIM (V8786), MEISTRATZHEIM (V8583), and ROSHEIM, capturing the bridges at ILLKIRSH (V9892) and GRAFFENSTADEN (Q9892) intact.

(3) CCL patrolled to the northeast.

(4) CCD remained in division reserve.

e. The 100th Infantry Division (VI Corps) was directed by Operations Instructions No. 21, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 26 November 1944, to be relieved and to assemble in the RAON L'ETAPE area prepared to commence movement by motor to XV Corps' zone by 0800, 27 November.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired nine counterbattery missions during the day. The 999th Field Artillery Battalion (8-inch Howitzer) fired an interdiction mission on the railroad bridge leading into HAGENAU (R0423).

g. The 106th Cavalry Group moved additional elements of the 106th Cavalry Squadron east of the VOSGES.

(1) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Squadron already east of the mountains encountered enemy resistance at WEINBOURG (Q7830) and INGWILLER (Q8130) and withdrew to WEITERSWILLER (Q7828), OBERSOULTZBACH (Q7928) and NEUWILLER (Q7525), keeping contact with the enemy.

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(2) There was no change in the [REDACTED] the 121st Cavalry Squadron. However, patrols from this squadron found the high ground south of TIEFFENBACH (Q6434) occupied by the enemy.

h. Antiaircraft artillery engaged 13 flights of enemy aircraft totalling 71 planes in the Corps' zone, destroying 9 aircraft and damaging 9. One pilot was captured at (Q933177) by the 439th AAA AW Battalion.

i. XV Corps Engineers replaced the treadway bridge over the RHIN AU MARNE Canal at (Q643152) with a class 40 one way steel stringer bridge. A class 40 70-foot double single Bailey bridge over the RHIN-MARNE Canal at (Q532134) was completed at 1115.

k. XII TAC supported XV Corps with 235 close support sorties (46 flown in support of the 2d French Armored Division, 105 in support of the 45th and 79th Infantry Division, and 84 in support of the 44th Infantry Division, 4 locomotives were destroyed, 36 railroad cars, 11 barges, 1 FW-190, 1 ME-262, and 8 airplanes on the ground.

l. By 26 November, it was apparent that the advance of the 4th Armored Division into the left portion of XV Corps' zone had not accomplished the expected diversion of enemy forces in the area. In the meantime the 106th Cavalry Group and elements of the 44th Infantry Division had beaten back the enemy counterattack to a point where the further advance of the 4th Armored Division to the northeast and the advance of XV Corps elements to the north and northwest resulted in some confusion.

(1) Elements of OCB by this time had begun moving toward WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131) and EYWILLER (Q5530). The advance continued as planned during the day.

(2) CCA, which had moved up to the vicinity of RAUWILLER (Q5323), reported that the town as well as SCHALBACH (Q5825) and DRULINGEN (Q6030) were occupied by friendly forces.

m. A total of 2048 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 2d French Armored Division captured 1500; the 79th Infantry Division captured 407; the 44th Infantry Division 73; the 45th Infantry Division 33; and Corps troops 35.

27. 27 NOVEMBER 1944:

Operations Instructions No. 54, issued at 1630, directed the 79th Infantry Division to conduct extensive reconnaissance in its zone to the north and northeast without becoming involved in a major engagement. At 1900, Field Order 13 was issued by the Commanding General XV Corps, directing an attack east and west of the VOSGES on 28 November. The missions of Corps' units were as follows:

(1) The 79th Infantry Division (reinforced) (east of the VOSGES) to attack in the right portion of Corps' zone, protecting the Corps' right flank, its objective the line: (R0917) - (Q9629).

(2) The 45th Infantry Division (reinforced) (east of the VOSGES) (CT 397 100th Infantry Division attached) to attack in the center portion of Corps' zone and seize the line: (Q9629) - (Q8634) preventing a debouchment of enemy forces into the Alsatian Plain south of the division's objective.

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(3) The 100th Infantry Division (reinforced) (less CT 397) to remain in Corps' reserve in the vicinity of (Q015140) prepared to leave one RCT in the SARREBOURG area and to move the remainder of the division east of the VOSGES. CT 397 was to be attached to the 45th Infantry Division effective 1900 27 November its objective an area in the vicinity of (Q8121) east of the VOSGES.

(4) The 44th Infantry Division (reinforced, less RCT 71) to continue the advance as rapidly as possible in the Corps' zone west of the VOSGES. RCT 71 was to be attached to the 4th Armored Division effective 1500 27 November.

(5) The 106th Cavalry Group: to maintain contact between the 45th Infantry and 44th Infantry Divisions; to be clear of the zone of the 79th Infantry Division and 45th Infantry Division prior to daylight 28 November. The attached tank destroyer company was to revert to control of 44th Infantry Division at LIXHEIM.

a. Acting upon the Operations Instructions No. 53 issued by XV Corps on the previous day, the 79th Infantry Division improved its positions preparatory to continuing on its mission of attacking north.

(1) The 314th and 315th Infantry Regiments improved their dispositions in preparation for the attack on 28 November, conducting reconnaissance to the front. At BATZENDORF (Q9720) and NIEDERSCHAEFFOLSHEIM (R0019), in each regiment's respective zone, determined enemy resistance to probing attempts by patrols was encountered.

(2) The 313th Infantry (less the 1st Battalion) remained in division reserve in the vicinity of BRUMATH (Q9814). The 1st Battalion remained attached to Task Force "T" in STRASBOURG. (40)

b. In the zone of the 44th Infantry Division the 157th Infantry reverted to division control from its attachment to the 44th Infantry Division at 0700. RCT 157 had been attached to the 44th Infantry Division on 25 November to help stem the enemy counterattacks in the RAUVILLER area.

(1) The 71st Infantry relieved elements of the 157th Infantry at (Q768280) and patrolled aggressively to the front. At 1500 the RCT 71 was attached to the 4th Armored Division. There were no other changes in the disposition of the 71st Infantry.

(2) The 114th Infantry Regiment maintained its positions in the vicinity of (Q620270) and (Q575260) and conducted patrolling. The 3d Battalion, in division reserve, assembled in the vicinity of LIXHEIM (Q5619) reverting at 2200 to regimental control. (41)

(3) CT 324, less the 2d Battalion (attached to the 2d French Armored Division) continued holding the bridgehead at the eastern exit of the EXCHBOURG - DOSSENHEIM pass until 1500, when it was relieved by elements of the 100th Infantry Division (CT 397). The relief was completed at 1845. The regiment, less the 2d Battalion, moved by motor to an assembly area near BROUVILLER (Q5718) where it closed at 2045. The 2d Battalion reverted to regimental control from attachment to the 2d French Armored Division and at the close of the period was enroute to the BROUVILLER area. (42).

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c. The 45th Infantry Division advanced 7 kilometers north in the eastern foothills of the VOSGES during the day against sporadic resistance.

(1) The 180th Infantry improved its positions generally north of HOCHFELDEN, the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion on the left and the 3d Battalion in reserve. (43) The 2d Battalion advanced to (Q893207) - (Q881222) and RINGELDORF (Q9025); and the 1st Battalion to ETTENDORF (Q8823), BUESWILLER (Q8727) - (Q865255). The 3d Battalion in division reserve moved from TRUCETENSHEIM (Q9007) to the vicinity of WILSHAUSEN (Q8614).

(2) The 3d Battalion 179th Infantry advanced to the outskirts of OBERMODERN (Q8527) during the day, while the 1st Battalion, on its left, captured UTWILLER (Q8227) and reached the eastern edge of NIEDERSULTZBACH. The 2d Battalion maintained its positions and reconnoitered near (Q8426) and within the limits of the regimental zone. (44)

(3) The 157th Infantry reverted to division control from attachment to the 44th Infantry Division and moved east of the VOSGES Mountains to an assembly area north of DOSSENHEIM (Q7522). Thereafter, the 1st Battalion advanced north to WEITERSWILLER (Q7628) and the 2d Battalion north to WEINBERG (Q7830) which it captured. The 3d Battalion followed the 2d Battalion into the town.

(4) RCT 397 (100th Inf Div) with two tank destroyer companies attached was attached to the 45th Infantry Division at 1900 and relieved the 324th Infantry of its task of protecting the SAVERNE GAP bridgehead. It closed in the vicinity of DOSSENHEIM at 2100.

d. The 100th Infantry Division was relieved from attachment to VI Corps and attached to XV Corps for operations upon arrival in XV Corps' area. The 100th Infantry Division commenced its movement to the new area as directed by Operations Instructions No. 53.

(1) The division CP opened at SARREBOURG.

(2) RCT 397 was attached to the 45th Infantry Division as directed by Field Order No. 13.

(3) RCT 398 moved to the assembly area southeast of SARREBOURG.

(4) RCT 399 remained in the vicinity of RAON L'ETAPE (V3070).

e. The 2d French Armored Division, in the vicinity of STRASBOURG, passed to VI Corps. The 2d Battalion 324th Infantry was relieved from attachment to the division and reverted to the control of its parent unit.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 10 counterbattery missions and one TOT on THAL (Q5634) in the zone of the 44th Infantry Division.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group screened to the north of XV Corps throughout the period. At 1530, the Group CP moved to FRINTZHEIM (Q8121).

(1) The 106th Cavalry Squadron reconnoitered to the north and northeast from BOUXWILLER (Q8125) and KIRRWILLER (Q8524). It encountered enemy reconnaissance along the line: (Q8130) - (Q8527) - (Q9027) - (Q9126).

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(2) The 121st Cavalry Squadron reconnoitered to the north in the VOSGES along the line: (Q6533) - (Q7134) - (Q7434) - (Q8031). It encountered the reconnaissance screen and engaged enemy armor and infantry moving eastward.

h. Antiaircraft artillery engaged and destroyed 1 ME-109 in the vicinity of PHALSBOURG (Q6519). The 108th AAA Gun Battalion fired 24 rounds at an observation tower in AUEHHEIM (R0700) east of the RHINE and scored 12 hits.

i. XII TAC flew 88 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period and destroyed 3 tanks, 1 artillery emplacement, 5 flak emplacements, 3 motor vehicles, 10 railroad cars, and damaged 26 locomotives.

j. CCB continued its attack to the north and entering XV Corps' zone received heavy fire from the woods east of WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131). Elements of CCA seized GUNZWILLER (Q5731). At 1750 the 4th Armored Division was notified that CT 71 of the 44th Infantry Division had been attached to CCB. CCB, during the period, moved from the vicinity of HABOUDE (Q1730) to the MITTERSHEIM (Q4129) - ROHRBACH (Q2634) area.

k. A total of 1032 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 45th Infantry Division captured 925; the 44th Infantry Division 20; the 2d French Armored Division 24; the 79th Infantry Division 12; and Corps Troops 51.

28. 28 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division advanced to the north and northeast in its zone.

(1) At 1320 the 1st Battalion 314th Infantry attacked the woods north of WEITBRUCH (R0317) in order to outflank NIEDERSCHAEFFOLSHEIM (R0019). The battalion received heavy small arms fire from BIRCKWALD (R0219) and from the edge of the woods. By dark the battalion had two companies in the woods at (R020191) - (R023-197), - (R029188), having taken BIRCKWALD (R0219) enroute. The 2d Battalion assembled in the vicinity of WEITBRUCH prepared to assist the 1st Battalion in its attack on NIEDERSCHAEFFOLSHEIM. Elements of the 3d Battalion advanced to (R032172), (R06017) and (R056160) during the day. (45)

(2) In the zone of the 315th Infantry the 1st Battalion attacked north at 1200 from the area east of WAHLENHEIM, its objective being BATZENDORF (Q9720). By 1320 the battalion had advanced to the southern edge of the town where intense artillery, mortar and small arms fire was encountered. The town was cleared after five hours fighting. The 2d Battalion attacked at 1215 from BERTHEIM on WINTERHAUSEN (Q9721). At 1820 the advance of the battalion was held up on the southern edge of the town by intense small arms and direct artillery fire from the north. The 3d Battalion moved to UHLWILLER (Q9524), leaving Company K, reinforced, at KREIGSHHEIM (Q9917). (46)

(3) The 313th Infantry (less the 1st Battalion in STRASBOURG as part of Task Force "T") remained in division reserve in the vicinity of BRUMATH.

b. Operations Instructions No. 54 had rescinded directions for the relief of the 324th Infantry by elements of the 45th Infantry Division. The division launched its attack east of the VOSGES in the center portion of Corps' zone in the morning.

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(1) The 179th Infantry attacked to the north at 0715, the 3d and 2d Battalions from right to left, the 2d Battalion in regimental reserve to the left rear. The 2d Battalion cleared SCHILLERSDORF (Q845303) and MUIHAUSEN (Q867315) against moderate opposition. (49) The 3d Battalion captured NIEFFERN (Q873299) and ZUTZENDORF (Q864284). Elements of the battalion reached (Q865284) and (Q855273) and found road blocks in the vicinity of (Q874300).

(2) At 1030 the 2d and 1st Battalions 180th Infantry, from right to left, attacked. The 2d Battalion cleared NIEDERMODERN (Q9227), one company meeting heavy resistance in the south edge of PFAFFENNOFFEN (Q908273). The 1st Battalion, against light opposition, reached a position from (Q888283) to (Q883280) with elements of the battalion across the stream at (Q884291). The 3d Battalion on the regiment's right flank remained in reserve, and moved to a new assembly area at GRASSENDORF (Q9124). (50)

(3) At 0715 the 2d and 3d Battalions 157th Infantry, from right to left, attacked north, the 2d Battalion clearing INGWILLER (Q8130), seizing the bridge intact, and advancing to the line: (Q843326) - (Q851329) - (Q854324) by the end of the day. The 3d Battalion in its attack occupied positions at (Q835339), (Q893336) and (Q830335). The 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry, moved to the vicinity of (Q805310) from which it established road blocks at (Q800318), (Q804324), (Q792313) and (Q789314). It received heavy mortar, artillery, and machine gun fire from the high ground north of TIEFFENBACH. The regimental CP opened at INGWILLER. (51)

(4) There was no change in the disposition of RCT 397 (attached from the 100th Inf Div) which remained in division reserve in the vicinity of DOSSENHEIM. (52)

c. The 44th Infantry Division was directed by Operations Instructions No. 54 to continue the advance north securing the successive lines: "c" (Q6046) - (Q5047) - (Q4045) - (Q3542), "b" (Q6239) - (Q5041) - (Q4037) - (Q2629), and "a" (Q6031) - (Q5032) - (Q4029) - (Q3422).

(1) The 114th Infantry attacked at 0700 with two battalions abreast from the vicinity of (Q575260) and (Q620270), and advancing north against no opposition seized the line: (Q561277) - (Q633286) - (Q651278) by 0800. At 1230 the attack to the east was resumed in column of battalions, the 1st Battalion leading with a mission of seizing a line generally along the railroad through TIEFFENBACH. The 1st Battalion reached the objective despite heavy mortar, artillery and machine gun fire from the high ground north of TIEFFENBACH (Q6434). The 3d Battalion established road blocks in the vicinity of STRUTH (Q6432). The 2d Battalion closed near PETERSBACH (Q6530) where it established road blocks. (47)

(2) The 324th Infantry remained in division reserve in the vicinity of BROUVILLER (Q5718). The 2d Battalion which had been released from attachment to the 2d French Armored Division on 27 November closed in the reserve area by 1600.

(3) The 71st Infantry continued attached to the 4th Armored Division, (48) with no changes in disposition.

d. The Commanding General 100th Infantry Division had been directed by Operations Instructions No. 54, Hq XV Corps dated 27 November to hold the SAVERNE GAP bridgehead and to assume responsibility for its protection as well as the protection of the north flank of XV Corps east of the VOSGES (later the responsibility of the Commanding General 45th Infantry Division).

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(1) RCTs 398 and 399 closed in assembly areas in the vicinity of (Q540095) southwest of SARREBOURG during the day.

(2) There was no change in the disposition of RCT 397 (attached to the 45th Infantry Division) which had relieved the 324th Infantry in position on the previous day.

e. The 14th Armored Division, less CCA (which was in assembly area in the vicinity of (Z999100)) was attached to XV Corps at 1200.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired ten counterbattery and eleven harassing missions during the period.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained contact between the 44th Infantry Division and the 45th Infantry Division and continued reconnaissance in its zone to the north and to the east of the VOSGES.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Squadron, occupying outpost positions in the vicinity of (Q790280) and (Q740340), was passed through by leading elements of the 45th Infantry Division in its attack. Elements of the squadron advanced northeast along the edges of the VOSGES.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Squadron encountered determined enemy resistance from small arms and automatic weapons at WIMENAU (Q7335) and WINGEN (Q7634) in attempting to move north through the VOSGES. Contact was maintained between the 44th Infantry Division and the 45th Infantry Division, and with the 4th Armored Division.

h. XII TAC flew no missions in support of XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions.

i. During the afternoon, CT 71 of the 44th Infantry Division (attached to the 4th Armored Division) cleared the BOIS DE WOLSTHOF (Q5532) and Hill 279 (Q5834) north of BERG (Q5733), coordinating its movement with those of CCB, 4th Armored Division. Elements of CCA moved up to occupy BETTWILLER (Q5932), assisting the 114th Infantry on its right flank with its artillery fire.

(1) Patrols of the 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (4th Armored Division) reached PISDORF (Q5133), SARREWERDEN (Q5236) and HARSKIRCHEN (Q4937) with no enemy contacts, driving on to reach the division objective, SARRE-UNION (Q5238), early on the morning of the 29th. At this time, the 4th Armored Division began moving from XV Corps' zone. The complete evacuation of the division from the area east of the SARRE was not completed until after 1 December.

j. A total of 46 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 44th Infantry Division captured 26; the 79th Infantry Division 18; and Corps Troops 2.

29. 29 NOVEMBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division (east of the VOSGES) resumed its attack to the north at 0730. Along the entire front enemy resistance was strong and intense small arms fire was encountered throughout the day.

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(1) The 2d Battalion 313th Infantry from an area in the immediate vicinity of BRUMATH, relieved elements of the 314th Infantry by 1345 on the right flank of the division and occupied the towns of WEYERSHEIM (R0413), KURTZENHAUSEN (R0515) and GRIES (R0517) against slight resistance. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve at BRUMATH. The 1st Battalion remained in STRASBOURG as part of Task Force "T", prepared to rejoin the 313th Infantry on the following day as directed by Operations Instructions No. 25, Seventh Army.

(2) The 2d Battalion 314th Infantry attacked NIEDERSCHAEFFOLSHEIM (R0019) at 0730, and occupied the town by 0930. After mopping up the battalion attacked HARTHAUSEN shortly after noon and captured the town by 1500 in the face of stiff small arms, artillery and tank fire. The 1st Battalion attacked northwest at 0730 and seized the crossroads at (R0120) but only after overcoming determined resistance from dug-in enemy positions. At 1815, a counterattack by infantry and two tanks forced the battalion to yield 500 yards. (53) The 3d Battalion captured WEITBRUCH (Q0317) and advanced to the south edge of the woods at (R037184) against stiff resistance from small arms and automatic weapons fire.

(3) At daylight the 315th Infantry continued mopping up in BLATZENDORF (Q9720) with the 1st Battalion in WINTERHAUSEN (Q9721) with the 2d Battalion, and in UHLWILLER with the 3d Battalion. The 2d Battalion attacked OHLUNGEN at 1030 supported by the 3d Battalion near UHLWILLER and by 1530 had occupied the town against light opposition. (54)

b. The 45th Infantry Division (east of the VOSGES) continued its attack as directed in Field Order 13.

(1) The 180th Infantry renewed the attack at 1000, rapidly advancing and gaining the south bank of the MODER River where its forward elements met strong enemy resistance. The 2d Battalion, leading, crossed two companies to the north bank of the river against strong opposition, captured UEBERACH (Q9227) at 1500, and mopped up the town. The remainder of the battalion was engaged during this time at PFAFFENOFFEN (Q9027). Meanwhile, the 1st Battalion (on the left of the 2d Battalion) had also crossed the MODER during the morning and at the close of the period was engaged in heavy fighting at KINDWILLER (Q9029) against increasing resistance. The 3d Battalion on the right flank of the regiment reduced isolated pockets of resistance in GRASSENDORF (Q9124).

(2) At 0800 the 179th Infantry in the center of the division zone continued its attack on MULHAUSEN. The 2d Battalion bypassed UHRWILLER (Q8832) and seized the high ground at (Q887326). The 1st Battalion moved up to continue its blocking mission and prepared to occupy MULHAUSEN and to follow the 2d Battalion on regimental order. (56) The 3d Battalion advanced on UHRWILLER (Q8830) against very strong resistance; at the end of the day it was fighting within the town.

(3) The 157th Infantry jumped off at daylight and advanced rapidly against intermittent resistance. The 1st Battalion received a counterattack at 0800 in the vicinity of (Q8032) but repulsed it by 1030. Continuing to the north-east the 1st Battalion captured ROTHBACH (Q8434) and OTTWILLER (Q8634) against increasing resistance and had reached (Q865348) by the end of the period. The 2d Battalion captured INGWILLER (Q8130) and BISCHOLTZ (Q8532) during the morning, continuing the advance to the outskirts of the woods at (Q885336). The 3d Battalion 157th Infantry followed the 1st and 2d Battalions, reaching INGWILLER at the close of the period.

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(4) The 397th Infantry (attached to the 45th Infantry Division) advanced to the left rear of the 157th Infantry; the 1st Battalion reached (Q8032), the 2d Battalion occupied WEINBOURG (Q7830), and the 3d Battalion, WEITERSWILLER (Q7628).

c. The 44th Infantry Division, west of the VOSGES, continued its attack to the north.

(1) The 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry attacked TIEFFENBACH, entered the town at 1145, mopped it up and continued patrolling to the front preparatory to resuming the advance. The 3d Battalion operated to the right rear of the 1st Battalion, advancing north and cleaning up scattered enemy resistance. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve at (Q6530). (55)

(2) The 71st Infantry was relieved from attachment to the 4th Armored Division at 0025. It remained in position in the vicinity of (Q550295) and on the left flank of XV Corps. The 3d Battalion moved from a regimental reserve area in the vicinity of POSTROFF to a new reserve position in the vicinity of GUNZWILLER (Q5731).

(3) The 324th Infantry, in division reserve, moved from BROUVILLER to (Q6027) where it closed at 1700.

d. The 100th Infantry Division, less RCT 397 (attached to the 45th Inf Div) remained in its assembly area southeast of SAPREBOURG performing maintenance and rehabilitation. Elements reconnoitered routes to a tentative assembly area in the vicinity of METTING (Q6123).

e. The 14th Armored Division (less CCA) remained in the CHATTEL (Z9010) area.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 19 counterbattery and 28 prepared harassing missions on road junctions during the period.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group continued its mission of screening and patrolling.

(1) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Squadron blocked the eastern exit of the pass northwest of INGWILLER (Q8130) and remained in contact with the enemy. Other elements outposted ROTHBACH (Q8434) after the town had been taken by the infantry.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Squadron maintained contact with the enemy along the line: WIMMENAU (Q7634) - WINGEN (Q7335) - PUBERG (Q6937) - HINSBOURG (Q6734). Elements of the squadron made a dismounted attack on WIMMENAU during the afternoon but were unsuccessful in cutting the east-west road through the pass at that point.

h. XV Corps Engineers completed a 70-foot double Bailey bridge (class 40) at HIRSCHLAND at 2128. They continued a program of mine clearing, of road construction and road maintenance in the Corps' zone.

i. XII TAC was unable to support XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions.

j. A total of 183 prisoners was taken by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 45th Infantry Division captured 121; the 79th Infantry Division 56; the 44th Infantry Division 5; and the 100th Infantry Division 1.

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30. 30 NOVEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued the attack both west and east of the VOSGES Mountains. Resistance to the advance east of the mountains remained stiff, but good progress was made during the day.

a. The 79th Infantry Division (east of the VOSGES) on the extreme right flank of the XV Corps, attacked in the morning.

(1) At 0745 the 3d Battalion 313th Infantry relieved the 3d Battalion 314th Infantry in the vicinity of WEITBRUCH (R0317) and took over the protection of the right flank of the division in that area. The 1st Battalion 313th Infantry closed in the vicinity of BRUMATH at 0900, having been relieved from its assignment to Task Force "T" by Operations Instructions No. 25, Seventh Army. The 2d Battalion remained in position in the vicinity of (R150130).

(2) The 1st Battalion 314th Infantry resumed the attack at 0800 to retake the road junctions at (R011208), which it reached and seized at 1050 after a stiff fight. The 2d and 3d Battalions attacked on the left of the 1st Battalion at 1130, encountering no opposition during the early part of their attack. Shortly after noon, both battalions received heavy small arms, light artillery and mortar fire. The 3d Battalion knocked out a Mark IV tank which had been blocking its advance and before dark gained the road junction at (Q620220), establishing a roadblock at the bridge to its north. The advance of the 2d Battalion was also slowed by heavy small arms, artillery and mortar fire as well as by fire from 4 to 5 tanks. The battalion destroyed two Mark IV tanks and advanced to (Q999215) by dark. Meanwhile, the 1st Battalion resumed the advance at 1600, and reached a position on the right of the 3d Battalion where it remained for the night. (57)

(3) The 315th Infantry attacked SCHWEIGHAUSEN (R0024) at 1130 with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. Both battalions received heavy small arms and mortar fire as well as some 75mm howitzer fire, but by dark were in the outskirts of the town. The 1st Battalion, in regimental reserve, remained in OHLUNGEN (Q9723).

(4) The 79th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, on the left flank of the division, cleared NEUBOURG (Q9626) and maintained contact with the 45th Infantry Division.

b. The 45th Infantry Division continued to advance in its zone. It cleared the towns of PFAFFENHOFFEN (Q9027), UBERACH (Q9227), and LA WALCK (Q9028). At the end of the period elements of the division were fighting in BITSCHHOFFEN (Q9128), KINDWILLER (Q8929), and just north of ENGWILLER (Q9131).

(1) The 2d Battalion of the 180th Infantry cleared PFAFFENHOFFEN (Q9027), LA WALCK (Q9028) and UBERACH (Q9227). Toward the end of the period, elements of the battalion entered BITSCHHOFFEN to assist Company "B" which was encountering heavy resistance there. Other elements of the 1st Battalion continued fighting in KINDWILLER (Q8929). The 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve in the vicinity of GRASSENDORF (Q9124). The 2d Battalion went into an assembly area in the vicinity of (Q655325).

(2) The 179th Infantry resumed the attack from MULHAUSEN (Q8631) and UHRWILLER (Q8832) at 0715. By 1000 the 1st Battalion had reached the west edge of the wood at (Q901320), advancing against light resistance. During the afternoon

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the resistance increased, the 1st Battalion being engaged in a stiff fire fight north of ENGWILLER (Q9131). The 2d Battalion cleared the woods near (Q890329) and the 3d Battalion remained in reserve in the vicinity of UHRWILLER (Q8830).

(3) The 157th Infantry did not change its dispositions during the period, but remained in the ROTHBACH (Q8434) - OFFWILLER (Q8634) - (Q865348) area. Three hostile raids each of combat patrol strength were successfully repulsed during the morning.

(4) The 397th Infantry (attached from the 100th Infantry Division) advanced on the left of the 157th Infantry from (Q8032), WESTBOURG (Q7830) and WEITER-SWIJER (Q7628). The 1st Battalion advanced northwest along the INGWILLER - WIMMENAU road against heavy small arms and mortar fire, reaching road junction (Q792335) by 1600. The 3d Battalion moving east of the 1st Battalion occupied positions in the vicinity of (Q812326) and (Q819330). The 2d Battalion occupied reserve positions in WEINBOURG (Q7830).

c. The 44th Infantry Division (west of the VOSGES) on the left flank of XV Corps, attacked north in the morning with elements of the 114th Infantry, the remaining regiments of the division regrouping and reorganizing.

(1) In the zone of the 114th Infantry, the 1st Battalion initially held its position just west of TIEFFENBACH (Q6434) while the 3d Battalion attacked around its right from an assembly area southeast of TIEFFENBACH. Very heavy small arms, artillery, mortar and depressed antiaircraft-gun fire prevented Company "K" from advancing north of the railroad. At about 1000, Companies "I" and "L" crossed to the southern side of the tracks under considerable fire. By 1515 the entire battalion was in the vicinity of (Q658364). At 1600 a coordinated attack by the 1st and 3d Battalions was launched on WEISSLINGEN (Q6435), contact between the battalions being established in the town by 1800. In spite of resistance characterized by enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire, WEISSLINGEN was cleared by nightfall. (58)

(2) The 324th Infantry in division reserve moved to the LOHR-OTWILLER area in the vicinity of (Q6329), where it closed at 1630.

(3) The 71st Infantry remained in positions in the vicinity of (Q565320).

d. The 100th Infantry Division (less CT 397) continued its program of rehabilitation and training in an area immediately southeast of SARREBOURG.

e. The 14th Armored Division (less CCA) commenced its movement from the CHATTEI area to the vicinity of HOCHFELDEN (Q8717) at 1000.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 26 counterbattery missions in support of the Corps. 29 prepared harassing missions were fired in the vicinity of HAGUENAU (R0423) and 3 missions in the vicinity of WIMMENAU (Q7634).

g. The 106th Cavalry Group continued patrolling in its zone.

(1) Troop A 106th Cavalry Squadron maintained contact with the enemy at east exit of the pass northwest of INGWILLER (Q8130). Troop B blocked the pass northwest of ROTHBACH (Q8434). ~~_____~~ to patrol the passes encountered strong

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enemy resistance. Troop C remained in squadron reserve in the vicinity of WEITER-SWILLER (Q7628).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Squadron maintained contact with the enemy on a line: HINSBOURG (Q6734) - PUBERG (Q6934) - WINGEN (Q7335) - WILLIENAU (Q7634) with Troops B and C. Troop A relieved Troop B at 1800, and Troop B withdrew to ERKARTSWILLER (Q7230).

h. XV Corps Engineers repaired a bridge at (Q887289) with 30 feet of treadway to accomodate tanks with extension tracks. Construction of a 90-foot TS Bailey bridge was under way at PFAFFENNOFFEN (Q9127).

i. Poor weather and visibility prevented air support during the period.

j. A total of 276 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 79th Infantry Division captured 165; the 45th Infantry Division 95; the 44th Infantry Division 13; and Corps Troops 3.

SECTION III

SUMMARY

1. The month of November, 1944, was characterized by two distinct phases of action on the part of XV Corps; preparation for the attack to force the line of the VOSGES and the attack and passage of the VOSGES.

a. During the first two weeks of the month the Corps (the 79th Infantry Division, 44th Infantry Division, 2d French Armored Division and Corps Troops) prepared for the attack to the northeast, the 79th Infantry Division (having moved up from a rear rest area and through the 2d French Armored Division) on the right flank, the 44th Infantry Division on the left flank, with the 2d French Armored Division initially holding the line of departure in the zone of the 79th Infantry Division. In general there was little activity on the Corps' front during the first half of November.

b. On 13 November 1944 XV Corps attacked to force the SAVERNE GAP and to throw the enemy back from his strongly defended positions in the VOSGES Mountains. On 19 November, following a breakthrough by infantry elements, the 2d French Armored Division was committed and in a series of brilliantly executed maneuvers outflanked the SAVERNE positions from the north and from the south, debouching into the eastern plains of the VOSGES on 21 November. Two days later this division, spearheading the XV Corps advance, seized and occupied the important city of STRASBOURG.

c. The 79th Infantry Division, advancing with great rapidity through the mountains, exploited the surprise achieved by the armor and seized positions south of HAGENAU by 24 November.

d. Threatening this general breakthrough to the east, enemy forces on the north flank of XV Corps commenced a series of powerful counterattacks in the vicinity of STRUTH - ASSWILLER - DRULINGEN on 24 November. The 44th Infantry Division and the 106th Cavalry Group, assisted by elements of the 4th Armored Division (XII Corps) and the 45th Infantry Division, prevented these thrusts from cutting the Corps' axis of advance.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Nov 44, dtd 23 Jan 45, Cont'd.

e. At the end of the month, XV Corps comprised five divisions (the 45th Infantry Division, 100th Infantry Division and 14th Armored Division having been assigned during the period while the 2d French Armored Division passed to VI Corps control on 27 November). The additional divisions simplified the task of holding the long northern flank created by the 50-mile advance of XV Corps.

f. Not only had XV Corps accomplished its mission of seizing the SAVERNE GAP, but it had liberated STRASBOURG and had reached the banks of the RHINE. Not only had XV Corps forced the withdrawal in complete disorder of the enemy but had wrested nearly 1000 square miles from him. Over and above these formidable accomplishments, XV Corps fought its way through the man-made positions and natural obstacles of the VOSGES Mountains, hampered by the worst weather in many years. Within two weeks after commencing its eastward drive, XV Corps had firmly established itself upon the RHINE having forced a mountain barrier never before breached in the annals of military history.

2. The following communication centers were liberated by XV Corps during its advance:

RECHICOURT (Q3407)
GONDREXANGE (Q3910)
ICROUIN (Q4508)
HEMING (Q4310)
SARREBOURG (Q5015)
PHALSBOURG (Q6519)
SAVERNE (Q7215)
HOCHFELDEN (Q8717)
BRULLATH (Q9714)
STRASBOURG (R0101)
BOUXWILLER (Q8125)
DRULINGEN (Q5930)
KIRBERG (Q5024)
RAUWILLER (Q5323)

3. During the month of November 1944 XV Corps destroyed 39 enemy tanks and 5 self-propelled guns and captured the following weapons and ammunition:

	<u>Serviceable</u>	<u>Unserviceable</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rounds</u>
20mm AA Guns	10			
20mm AA	14	24	38	7700
37mm AA	13	13	26	3656
37mm AT Gun	1			
40mm AA	8	2	10	(8 boxes)
50mm AT Gun	1			
75mm Guns	17	15	32	73385
76.2mm Guns	6	4	10	2344
88mm Guns, AA or MP	30	15	45	5922
100mm Guns	2	5	7	1320
105mm H.G.	7	8	15	2460
122mm H.	197	0	197	0
150mm Guns	12	10	23	1940
150mm How		5	5	14000
170mm How	1	0	1	0

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	<u>Serviceable</u>	<u>Unserviceable</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rounds</u>
203mm How	2	6	8	780
75mm Smooth Bore How	2	0	2	0
75mm How	3	0	3	0
TOTAL	320	102	422	113577

4. XV Corps was opposed by units of the 21st Panzer Division, 25th Panzer Grenadier Division, 130th Panzer Lehr Division, 245th Infantry Division, 256th Infantry Division, 361st Infantry Division, 553d Infantry Division and 708th Infantry Division at various times during the month of November. The original aggregate strength of these units was an approximate 27,100. 15,281 prisoners of war were captured.

5. On 24 November 1944, General Eisenhower, accompanied by Lieutenant General Bradley, Lieutenant General Devers and Lieutenant General Patch, visited the XV Corps command post at SARREBOURG.

Wade H. Haislip
WADE H. HAISLIP,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

5 Annexes:

- 1 - Annex 1 (G-1 Data & Statistics).
- 2 - Annex 2 (G-2 Enemy Order of Battle).
- 3 - Annex 3 (Chief of Staff, General).
- 4 - Annex 4 (G-4, Supply, Transportation, & Evacuation).
- 5 - Annex 5 (G-5 (Civil Affairs) Historical Data).

6 Inclosures:

- 1 - Footnotes to Summary of Operations, XV Corps, 1 November to 30 November, 1944.
- 2 - Narrative of the Actions of the 173d FA Gp during the period 23-25 November, 1944.
- 3 - Engineer Report.
- 4 - Signal Report.
- 5 - Chemical Report.
- 6 - G-3 Journal and Journal File, Nos. 1 thru 30, inclusive, November, 1944.

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Inclosure 1 to After Action Report, XV Corps,

November 1 - 30, 1944

Footnote Number	November Journal Date	Journal Entry Number	Reference
1	2	19	Consolidated Msgs, 3151 SIAM Co, 1 Nov.
2	2	19	do
3	2	18	2d French Armd Div, Orders for the Day, 1 Nov.
4	2	18	do
5	2	52	44th Inf Div Sitrep No. 68, 021545 Nov.
6	3	29	2d French Armd Div, Preliminary Orders, 2 Nov.
7	2	44	2d French Armd Sitrep, 020600-021200 Nov.
8	3	19	106th Cav Gp Per Report No. 11, 012400-022400 Nov.
9	3	12	XV Corps Sitrep No. 306, 021800-030800 Nov.
10	4	15	Memo fr XV Corps G-3 Air (Air Support) 4 Nov.
11	6	48	XV Corps G-2 Isum, 061200 Nov.
12	10	39	XV Corps G-2 Isum, 101200 Nov.
13	12	6	44th Inf Div Per Report No. 26, 110001-112400 Nov.
14	12	5	2d French Armd Div Per Report, 110001-112400 Nov.
15	17	7	44th Inf Div Periodic Report No. 31.
16	18	43) 68)	SIAM Reports
17	18	19	XV Corps Sitrep No. 336.
18	19	84	Seventh Army Opns Instns No. 16, 19 Nov.
19	20	9	44th Inf Div Per Report No. 34, 190001-192400 Nov.
20	19	32	XV Corps G-3 Spot Report as of 191230 Nov.
21	20	76	XV Corps Opns Instns to 79th Inf Div and 2d French Armd Div, 202030 Nov.
22	21	11	79th Inf Div Periodic Report No. 84, 200001-202400 Nov.
23	21	11	do
24	22	46	XV Corps G-2 Report No. 100, 210001-212400 Nov.
25	21	6	44th Inf Div Orders of Opns for 21 Nov.
26	21	6	do
27	21	6	do
28	21	96	XV Corps G-3 telephone conversations, 21 Nov.
29	22	3	2d French Armd Div Per Report, 210001-212400 Nov.
30	22	24	Tp Msg from G-3 XV Corps to CG 45th Inf Div Arty, 221110 Nov.
31	22	43	Tp conversation, Gen Patch to Gen Haislip, 221530 Nov.
32	24	12	79th Inf Div Per Report No. 67, 230001-232400 Nov.
33	24	11	44th Inf Div Per Report No. 38, 230001-232400 Nov.
34	24	43	2d French Armd Div Per Report, 230001-232400 Nov.
35	26	52	79th Inf Div Per Report No. 69, 250001-252400 Nov.
36	26	52	do
37	26	12	44th Inf Div Per Report No. 40, 250001-252400 Nov.
38	26	16	XV Corps Sitrep No. 352, 251800-252400 Nov.
39	27	16	44th Inf Div Per Report No. 41, 260001-262400 Nov.
40	28	29	79th Inf Div Per Report No. 91, 270001-272400 Nov.
41	28	13	44th Inf Div Per Report No. 42, 270001-272400 Nov.
42	28	19	do
43	28	56	45th Inf Div Per Report No. 105, 262400-272400 Nov.

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Footnote Number	November Journal Date	Journal Entry Number	Reference
44	28	5	45th Inf Div Per Report No. 105, 262400-272400 Nov.
45	29	2	XV Corps G-3 Spot Report as of 282320 Nov.
46	29	11	79th Inf Div Per Report No. 92, 280001-282400 Nov.
47	29	13	44th Inf Div Per Report No. 43, 280001-282400 Nov.
48	29	13	do
49	29	14	45th Inf Div Per Report No. 106, 272400-282400 Nov.
50	29	14	do
51	29	14	do
52	29	14	do
53	30	42	79th Inf Div Per Report No. 93, 290001-292400 Nov.
54	30	42	do
55	30	8	44th Inf Div Per Report No. 44, 290001-292400 Nov.
56	30	10	45th Inf Div Per Report No. 107, 282400-292400 Nov.
57	1 (Dec)	32	79th Inf Div Per Report No. 94, 300001-302400 Nov.
58	1 (Dec)	10	44th Inf Div Per Report No. 45, 300001-302400 Nov.

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HEADQUARTERS
XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

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+Auth: CG XV Corps+
+Date: 15 Mar 45+
+Initials: CRK +
+++++

APO 436, US Army
15 March 1945

AG 314.7 (G)

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, Seventh Army)

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In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended, and Memorandum Headquarters Seventh Army, file AG 314.7 Misc, dated 7 August 1944, the following report covering the operations of XV Corps during the period 1 December - 31 December 1944, both dates inclusive, is submitted.

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

1. At the beginning of December 1944, XV Corps was composed of the 79th Infantry Division, 45th Infantry Division, 100th Infantry Division, 44th Infantry Division, 14th Armored Division, 106th Cavalry Group, and attached Corps troops.
2. Prior to the beginning of December XV Corps had successfully broken through the VOSGES Mountains, debouched into the Alsatian plain, advanced to the RHINE River, liberated STRASBOURG, and thereafter shifted its direction of attack from the east to the north and on 1 December was advancing north and northeast on both sides of the VOSGES Mountains. By this date, the main enemy resistance had been broken and all units of XV Corps were in light contact only with the enemy along the entire Corps front.
3. The 79th Infantry Division, operating on the Corps right flank north of STRASBOURG, was engaged in patrol activity only preparatory to continuing its attack to breach the MAGINOT and SIEGFRIED lines. The 45th Infantry Division (reinforced with one RCT of 100th Infantry Division), operating along the eastern edges of the VOSGES, was preparing to continue the attack to the north to seize the line of the railroad from MERTZWIJLER (99529) to NIEDERBRONN-LES-BAINS (99538). The 100th Infantry Division, which had just been attached to XV Corps, was still in the VI Corps' area and was making preparations to move to the XV Corps' zone of action for operations in the western edges of the VOSGES in an attack designed to breach the MAGINOT LINE. The 44th Infantry Division, operating in the zone north of SARREBOURG, was making preparations to continue the attack to develop and breach the MAGINOT fortifications in its zone. The 14th Armored Division was in the process of moving one combat command from the VI Corps area to a division assembly area in the vicinity of HOCHFELDEN (98717), and the remainder of the division, which had been in Army reserve in the vicinity of CHATELAIN, to the assembly area mentioned above. On arrival in its assembly area in the vicinity of HOCHFELDEN the division was to be in Corps reserve. The 106th Cavalry Group was engaged in reconnaissance activities in the VOSGES and was maintaining contact between elements of the Corps east and west of

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4. Thus, during the first days of December the major operations of XV Corps were directed toward the reorganizing and changing of direction of the advance of Corps to the north preparatory to an attack against the MAGINOT and SIEGFRIED lines.

Note 1: All hours are "A" hours (British Summer Time).

Note 2: All map references are to map GSGS 4249, 4416, Scale 1/100,000, FRANCE.

Report of Operations

1 - 31 December 1944

SECTION II

NARRATIVE

1. 1 DECEMBER 1944:

a. The 79th Infantry Division operated in the right (east) portion of the XV Corps zone east of the VOSGES and north of STRASBOURG. Operations Instructions No. 57, XV Corps, dated 1 December and published at 2130 made no change in the mission or in attachments thereto of the division.

(1) The 313th Infantry continued the protection of the division's right flank. Patrols reported no contact on the road (R0319) - (R0320) but contact was made with the enemy at (R039196) in the woods north of GRIS (R0517).

(2) The 2d Battalion 314th Infantry attacked north at 0755 and by 0945 had captured MEYERSHOFEN farm (R009223). During the attack, the enemy interdicted the road between (R008213) and (R020220) with antiaircraft airbursts while the attack continued against small arms and mortar fire. Elements of the battalion reached (R023228) and held the road from (R004226) to (R012228) after knocking out one hostile tank. The 1st Battalion attacked through the woods south of HAUGENAU and captured WALKCHATEAU (R0221), by 1500 after outflanking it from the west. The 3d Battalion throughout the day organized and improved its positions in the center of the division's line near (R120215).

(3) The 2d and 3d Battalions 315th Infantry continued their attacks on the town of SCHWEIGHAUSEN (Q9924) against stiff resistance. When the town was cleared, the 3d Battalion held its positions there while the 2d Battalion advanced to (R012238). The 1st Battalion remained in reserve in the vicinity of (Q9723).

(4) The 79th Reconnaissance Troop maintained a road block at NEUBOURG (Q9626). The 94th Reconnaissance Squadron (less Troop B), (14th Armored Division) attached to the 79th Infantry Division, covered the right (south) flank of Corps and maintained contact between the 313th Infantry and 117th Cavalry Squadron (VI Corps).

b. Operations Instructions No. 57, XV Corps, directed the 44th Infantry Division (reinforced) to continue the attack on the morning of 2 December in the western portion of XV Corps zone (west of the VOSGES) with the mission of developing the MAGINOT fortifications in zone.

(1) The 1st and 2d Battalions of the 71st Infantry attacked at 1600 to seize the high ground at (Q580360). At 1800 the attack was stopped along the line

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(Q600335) - (Q585347) because of darkness and increased enemy resistance consisting of small arms, mortar and artillery fire. At 1300 the 3d Battalion moved to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of BURG (Q5733). Orders issued at 2200 moved the battalion to division reserve in the vicinity of BERTWILLER (Q5932).

(2) The 114th Infantry improved its positions along the line: (Q603320) - (Q648545) - (Q648358) and patrolled to its front.

(3) The 324th Infantry moved by foot from the LOHR (Q6328) - OTTWILLER (Q6229) area to the vicinity of DURSTEL (Q6032), the 2d Battalion closing prior to midnight.

c. The 45th Infantry Division (reinforced) (east of the VOSGES) was directed by Operations Instruction No. 57, XV Corps, to continue the attack on the morning of 2 December to seize the line of the railroad from MERTZWILLER (Q9529) to NIEDERBRONN LES BAINS (Q9338). Two Battalions of artillery and a medium tank battalion from 14th Armored Division were attached to the division for the operation. RCT 397 was to revert to control of the 100th Infantry Division on 3 December on Corps order.

(1) The 3d Battalion, 180th Infantry, attacked through the 2d Battalion at 0300, and by 0800 reached the outskirts of MEETESHEIM (Q9230), while Companies E and B cleared BITSCHHOFFEN (Q9128). By midday the 1st Battalion cleared KINDWILLER (Q8929), Company A occupying the town and Company C moving to BITSCHHOFFEN. At 1600, despite strong resistance, Company L was in MEETESHEIM. At the end of the day the 3d Battalion which had made the farthest advance occupied the line: (Q935305) - (Q925305) - (Q925315). The 2d Battalion, to the right rear of the 3d Battalion, was in position from (Q927280) to (Q905279). The 1st Battalion on left held the line: (Q915288) - (Q895193).

(2) The 1st and 2d Battalions, 179th Infantry, continued the attack at 0830 and at the close of the period the 1st Battalion was still engaged northwest of ENGWILLER (Q9131) along the line: (Q898230) - (Q899240). The 2d Battalion continued to meet stiff resistance during the day and at nightfall occupied positions from (Q900320) to (Q910228). Company I advanced to (Q8932). Company I, with the mission of clearing ridge 238 at (Q897308), contacted the enemy at (Q8932).

(3) At 0800 the 2d and 3d Battalions, 157th Infantry, continued their attack which progressed slowly during the day. By 1600 they occupied the high ground overlooking ZINSWILLER (Q8935). The 1st Battalion at the end of the day held positions facing NW in the vicinity of (Q8033).

(4) The 397th Infantry actively patrolled to the west during the period. The 1st Battalion encountered stiff resistance at the crossroads at (Q7933) in its advance from WEITERSWILLER. The 3d Battalion attempted to take Hills 296 and 370 but was repulsed by heavy mortar, small arms and automatic weapons fire. Company K closed in INGWILLER (Q8130) at 1850. The 2d Battalion remained in the vicinity of (Q788308).

d. The 100th Infantry Division (reinforced) (less RCT 397) was directed by Operations Instructions No. 57, XV Corps, to an assembly area in the vicinity of METTING (Q6133) on 2 December and to attack north on 3 December. The division less RCT 397 was directed to be north of the road, SARTREBOURG - PHALSBOURG by 021400 December. RCT 397 was directed to revert to division control.

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trol on Corps order on 3 December. During the day, the division continued its program of maintenance and rehabilitation.

e. The 14th Armored Division was directed by Operations Instructions No. 57, XV Corps, to attach the 499th and 501st Armored Field Artillery Battalions to the 45th Infantry Division in position. The 47th Tank Battalion was also attached to the 45th Infantry Division, effective at 012130 December. CCB (less the 19th and 68th Armored Infantry Battalions) closed in the division assembly area in the vicinity of HOCHWEIDEN (Q8717). Movement of the remainder of the division continued. The division CP opened at HOCHWEIDEN at 1440.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 44 counterbattery missions during the day. 20 prepared harassing missions were fired in the vicinity of HAGEMAU (R0423).

g. The 106th Cavalry Group continued its reconnaissance activities in the VOSGES and maintained contact between elements of the Corps east and west of the VOSGES.

(1) Troop A of the 106th Cavalry Squadron maintained contact with the enemy and blocked the eastern exit of the pass northwest of INGWIILER. Troop B blocked the pass northwest of ROTHBACH (Q8434) and also maintained contact with the enemy.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Squadron maintained contact with the enemy south of HINSBOURG (Q6734) - PUBERG (Q6934) - WINGEN (Q7335) - WILLEMAU (Q7634). Aggressive patrolling was conducted by all troops during the period to determine the strength and dispositions of the enemy. OP's were established for the night at (Q685284) - (Q693293) - (Q696284) - (Q710298) to block isolated enemy forces reported attempting to work northeast through the VOSGES to the enemy lines.

h. XV Corps Engineers completed a class 40, 80-foot double span, Bailey bridge at (Q910276).

i. XII TAC supported XV Corps with 136 sorties (32 reconnaissance and 104 close support missions with fighter bombers). 58 sorties were flown to support the 45th and 79th Infantry Divisions, but fog and low clouds prevented close support and planes continued across the RHINE River to bomb bridges at (R5280) and (R4148). 48 sorties were flown in support of the 44th Infantry Division. Motor transportation, gun positions, buildings and troop concentrations were bombed and strafed. 24 bombs were dropped on CAMP DE BITCHE (Q8050), and 22 bombs were dropped in the vicinity of REILING (Q6555). The following claims were reported: 9 locomotives, 35 railroad cars, 4 motor transports, 1 bridge destroyed and 6 rail cuts made. One of our planes was lost.

j. A total of 196 prisoners was captured in the Corps sector during the period: the 45th Infantry Division captured 132, the 44th Infantry Division captured 34, and the 79th Infantry Division 30.

2. 2 DECEMBER 1944:

Field Order 14, XV Corps, dated 2 December 1944, directed that the Corps continue its advance east and west of the VOSGES on 3 December, maintain contact with VI Corps and protect the right flank of Third Army.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Dec 44, dtd 15 Mar 45, Cont'd.

a. The 79th Infantry Division was directed by this order to continue its mission of attacking in the right (east) portion of Corps zone; and of protecting the right (east) flank of Corps.

(1) At 0800 the 314th Infantry attacked and straightened its line to include (R020218) - (R025213) - (R205217) - (R015225) - (R020228) - (R016232). During the day it improved its positions.

(2) The 313th Infantry and 315th Infantry Regiments from (R050160) - (R075175) - (R040180) and (R015230) - (R005245) respectively patrolled to their front and flanks. The enemy appeared particularly alert and resisted all probing attempts by patrols.

b. The 45th Infantry Division, in its zone east of the VOSGES, was directed to continue its present mission (continuing attack to north to seize the railroad from MERTZWILLER (Q9529) to NIEDERBRONN LES BAINS (Q9338)) and in addition thereto, to attack not later than 0730, 3 December from the vicinity of ROTHBACH (Q8434), employing RCT 397 (100th Infantry Division), with the mission of outflanking the enemy resistance in the WILLENAU (Q7634) - WINGEN (Q7335) area from the north and east. RCT 397 was to revert to the command of the 100th Infantry Division on Corps order after the capture of WILLENAU. The 499th and 501st Armored Field Artillery Battalions and the 47th Tank Battalion were attached to the 45th Infantry Division from the 14th Armored Division for the operation directed by Field Order 14.

(1) The 3d Battalion of the 180th Infantry, advancing north, resumed its attack in METTESHEIM (Q9331) against stubborn resistance. By the end of the period the battalion had cleared two thirds of the town. The 1st and 2d Battalions occupied positions to the south of METTESHEIM.

(2) The 1st Battalion of the 179th Infantry resumed its attack on ENGWILLER (Q9131) at 0915. The enemy stiffly resisted from within the town subjecting the battalion to intense small arms and mortar fire. At the end of the period a portion of the town was still in enemy hands. The 2d Battalion advanced on the left of the 1st Battalion while the 3d Battalion moved to a position south of ENGWILLER.

(3) The 2d Battalion of the 157th Infantry in its advance north attacked ZINSWILLER and after fighting its way into the southern part of the town was halted at the bridge over the river at (Q8235) which had been blown by the Germans. Repairs were begun at once in preparation for the attack on 3 December. The 3d and 1st Battalions, following the 2d Battalion, made plans to flank the town from the east and west respectively.

(4) On the eastern slopes of the VOSGES, the 397th Infantry blocked the exits of the FORET D'INGWILLER and the FORET de la PETITE PIERRE. Active patrolling throughout the period disclosed strong enemy groups along the roads to the northwest and any attempted advance in that direction was strongly contested by the enemy.

c. Field Order 14 directed the 100th Infantry Division (reinforced) (less RCT 397, attached to the 45th Infantry Division) to attack in the right portion of Corps' zone west of the VOSGES, capture WILLENAU and continue the attack without

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delay to breach the MAGNOT line in the division's zone. The division was concerned also with the protection of the right flank and rear of the Corps in the VOSGES Mountains, and with the reassignment of the 106th Cavalry Group then defending road blocks covering the approach through the VOSGES from the east. In preparation for the attack on 3 December, the division moved to assembly areas as follows: the 398th Infantry to the vicinity of LOHR (Q6428); the 399th Infantry to the vicinity of SIEWILLER (Q6127). The Division CP opened at LETTING (Q6123) at 1500.

d. West of the VOSGES, the 44th Infantry Division was directed by Field Order 14 to attack in the left (west) portion of the Corps zone on 3 December, seize the high ground south of SIERSTHAL (Q7141) and continue the attack without delay to breach the MAGNOT line in the division's zone.

(1) The 3d Battalion, 114th Infantry, in the vicinity of WEISSENLINGEN (Q6435) repulsed two counterattacks during the day, the first at 0100 and the second at 0440. Each counterattack was of approximately company strength. Elements of the 2d Battalion riding on the tanks of one medium tank company moved to the northwest, successfully cleared HINSBOURG (Q6734) by 1500 and FROHLING (Q6634) by 2000, and assembled near TILFFENBACH (Q6434). At the end of the period, the 2d Battalion was moving to extend the right flank of the 3d Battalion in preparation for the attack on 3 December. The 1st Battalion, on the left flank of the regiment, occupied a position in the vicinity of (Q635355).

(2) The 324th Infantry attacked from the vicinity of (Q6132) toward WALDHALBACH (Q6234) at 1400. In spite of stiff opposition it had seized the town by 2000. Extensive destruction of routes and bridges in the zone of attack prevented close support by tanks and TDs in the last phase of the action.

(3) The 1st and 2d Battalions of the 71st Infantry continued the attack north at 0700 and by 1600 cleared the enemy from the BOIS de TODT ENBERG (Q6035), the 1st Battalion occupying positions near (Q6045). Attempts to make a further advance on MACKWILLER (Q5936) were halted by heavy small arms, mortar and artillery fires. The 2d Battalion occupied the high ground west of MACKWILLER in preparation for the attack on 3 December. The 3d Battalion moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Q258315).

e. Combat elements of the 14th Armored Division, less CCA and the 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, closed in their assembly areas west of HOCHFELDE (Q8741). One tank battalion and two artillery battalions were attached to the 45th Infantry Division.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 3 counterbattery missions, numerous harassing missions in support of the divisions, and long range fires by "A" Battery, 575th Field Artillery Battalion (8-inch gun) on BITCHE (Q7750), HOTZWILLER (Q7253) and LEMBERG (Q7445). Headquarters XV Corps Artillery moved to DRILLINGEN (Q6036).

g. The 106th Cavalry Group was directed by Field Order 14 to cover the right flank of the Corps, initially from WINGEN (Q7335), and to reconnoiter in the direction WINGEN - BITCHE (Q7760), WINGEN - PIRMASENS (Q9067), WINGEN - ANNWEILER (R1667). The group was further directed to construct and defend road blocks covering the main routes through the VOSGES from the east until relieved by the 100th Infantry Division, and to maintain contact between the 45th Infantry Division and the 100th Infantry Division.

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(1) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Squadron reconnoitered roads south of the line: PETERSBACH (Q6530) - WEINBOURG (Q7830) and blocked the eastern exits of passes northwest of ROTHBACH (Q8434) and INGWILLER (Q8130).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Squadron made a reconnaissance in force to the high ground south of WILMENAU (Q7634) from which it drove off the enemy, cutting the road to the west. Elements of the squadron maintained contact with the enemy south of PUBERG (Q6934) and WINGEN (Q7335).

h. XII TAC flew 103 sorties in support of XV Corps during the day. The ponton bridge over the RHINE 7 miles north of STRASBOURG was bombed and damaged. LICHTENBERG (Q8135), VOLKSBERG (Q6738), PUBERG and WALDENBACH were bombed and strafed. 1 Tiger tank and 1 halftrack were claimed destroyed; 4 ME-109's were destroyed and 4 damaged, with 3 P-47's destroyed and 9 damaged.

i. A total of 188 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day: Of this number the 100th Infantry Division captured 61; the 14th Armored Division 54, the 45th Infantry Division 39, the 44th Infantry Division 23, and Corps Troops 11.

3. 3 DECEMBER 1944:

a. There was no change in the dispositions of the 79th Infantry Division during the day. Patrolling was conducted along the entire front.

(1) The 313th Infantry, on the right flank of the division, maintained its positions and aggressively patrolled to its front. A demonstration by element of the 2d Battalion, in which smoke was laid along the woods north of GRIES (R060170), brought enemy artillery and mortar fire down in front of the battalion position. When the Germans realized that the American troops were not advancing they shelled GRIES heavily.

(2) The 314th Infantry patrolled and made minor adjustments in its dispositions.

(3) There was no change in the dispositions of the 315th Infantry.

b. The 45th Infantry Division resumed the attack along its entire front shortly after daylight, meeting stubborn resistance on its left flank and intermittent opposition on its right flank. Resistance stiffened late in the day.

(1) The 2d Battalion, 180th Infantry, occupied la WALCK (Q9027) and KIDERNODERN (Q9227), sending elements northeast to the outskirts of MERTZWILLER (Q9529). The 3d Battalion cleared METESHEIM (Q9330) by 1000 and fanned out to the northeast where the enemy offered strong resistance from dug-in positions along the railroad. The 3d Battalion reported UTENHOFFEN (Q9332) clear at 1600. The 1st Battalion, on the regiment's left flank, moved only slightly to the northeast during the day.

(2) The 179th Infantry crossed the ZINTZEL River into GULBERECHTSHOFFEN (Q9133), cleared the town, and continued the attack to the north. The 2d Battalion leading, crossed elements into GULBERECHTSHOFFEN before daylight. The bridge there was out and the ford was mined. Hostile artillery fire was heavy in the area.

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Later in the day, the 3d Battalion moved through elements of the 2d Battalion to the left flank after having assisted the 2d Battalion in clearing the town. There was no change in the dispositions of the 1st Battalion.

(3) The 157th Infantry advanced 2 kilometers during the period against stubborn resistance, leading with the 2d Battalion which took ZINSWILLER (Q8935). There was considerable house-to-house fighting but by 0930 the town was reported clear and the exit roads blocked. The 3d Battalion attacked on the left of the 2d Battalion to outflank the town from the north. The 397th Infantry relieved the 1st Battalion 157th Infantry in the vicinity of ROTHBACH (Q8534) and the battalion moved to positions in the forward edge of the woods at (Q8031).

(4) The 397th Infantry (attached to the 45th Infantry Division) relieved the 1st Battalion 157th Infantry in the vicinity of ROTHBACH (Q8534) and attacked northwest into the foothills of the VOSGES with the mission of outflanking the enemy resistance in the LUTENAU (Q7634) - WINGEN (Q7335) area from the north and east. The regiment encountered very heavy resistance and made only slight gains.

c. The 100th Infantry Division (less 397th Infantry), to the west of the VOSGES, initiated its attack to the northeast.

(1) At 0730 the 398th Infantry attacked northeast from the vicinity of (Q700315), advancing during the early part of the period against intermittent resistance which had increased greatly by midday. The 1st Battalion encountered strong opposition at WINGEN (Q7335). The battalion had completely surrounded the town by the end of the period, but was unable to enter and occupy it. The 2d Battalion pushed onto the high ground south of SOUCHT in the vicinity of (Q7039). The 3d Battalion advanced to the railroad in the vicinity of (Q7035).

(2) The 399th Infantry moved at 1015 from the vicinity of (Q605260) to assembly area in the vicinity of PETERSBACH (Q6550). The 1st Battalion closed in the town at 1330, the 2d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q6829) at 1345, and the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q7030) at 1405.

d. The 44th Infantry Division advanced two kilometers to the north against strong enemy resistance, the enemy employing small arms, automatic weapons and mortar fire.

(1) At 0730 the 114th Infantry renewed its attack, the 2d Battalion on the right flank as pivot, with the 1st Battalion on the left and the 3d Battalion in the center. When the movement was completed, all battalions faced east on a north-south line. The 1st Battalion advanced at 0945 through the woods toward VOLKSBERG (Q6838), the 2d Battalion advancing on the right of the 1st Battalion. As the two battalions approached VOLKSBERG they came under heavy fire from the town and as mines and roadblocks impeded all tank movement resulting in a loss of close support by this area, no further progress was made during the day.

(2) At daylight, the 2d Battalion 324th Infantry resumed mopping up in WALDHALSBAACH (Q6263). The 1st and 3d Battalions passed through the 2d Battalion at 1015 and advanced to the north, the 1st Battalion encountering strong opposition in the vicinity of (Q6048). The 3d Battalion encountered only intermittent resistance. By 1210 both battalions had reached the southern edge of the BOIS de GRUNEWALD; thereafter the 3d Battalion advanced to (Q620384) and the 1st Battalion to (Q630380) where enemy infantry supported by tanks fought bitterly, forcing a slight withdrawal of leading elements of the 1st Battalion. However, the lost ground was regained before the end of the period.

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(3) The 2d Battalion 71st Infantry attacked at 0715 from the high ground in the vicinity of (Q580358), seized the town of MICKWILLER (Q5936) at 0745 and completed the mopping up of the town by 1230. There was no change in the 1st Battalion during the period. The 3d Battalion remained in division reserve at (Q258315).

e. CCA of the 14th Armored Division commenced movement from VI Corps area to the vicinity of ZOEBERSDORF (Q8421) and leading elements arrived there by the close of the period. The remainder of the division remained in its assembly area in the vicinity of HOCHFELDEN (Q8741), conducted training and performed maintenance operations.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 42 counterbattery missions and numerous prepared harassing missions to the front of the 45th and 79th Infantry Division during the period. 21 prepared harassing missions were fired in the areas of RAILING (Q6143) and ST LOUIS (Q7243).

g. The 106th Cavalry Group conducted reconnaissance in the VOSGES Mountains and maintained contact between the 100th Infantry and 45th Infantry Divisions.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Squadron blocked the eastern exits of the VOSGES Mountains northwest of ROTHBACH (Q8434) and INGWILLER (Q8130) until relieved by elements of the 397th Infantry. Elements of the group outposted ROTHBACH and OFFWILLER (Q8634). The remainder of the Squadron passed to Group reserve in the vicinity INGWILLER.

(2) Elements of the 121st Cavalry Squadron were forced to withdraw from the high ground south of WILLENAU (Q7734) by an enemy counterattack at 0300. Other elements of the squadron blocked the roads west and southwest of the town and covered the town with fire. At the end of the period the results of the shelling on the town were undetermined.

h. Antiaircraft artillery engaged 5 ME-109's over the Corps' area during the day. Three of these planes were destroyed.

i. XII TAC supported XV Corps with numerous bombing missions throughout the period. Marshalling yards, locomotives and tracks to the north and east of the Corps' front were attacked with reported good results. Bridges and ponton bridge at (R1718) and (V8848) were also attacked, but with no direct hits reported.

j. A total of 190 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day: Of this number the 45th Infantry Division captured 95, the 44th Infantry Division 82 the 100th Infantry Division 11, the 79th Infantry Division 1, and Corps Troops 1.

4. 4 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued its advance to the north, both east and west of the VOSGE against determined enemy resistance. Operations Instructions 59, XV Corps (in compliance with attachment order 3 December, Headquarters Seventh Army), dated 4 December directed the 12th Armored Division, less the 92d Reconnaissance Squadron (which had come into the Corps' area by informal verbal orders of the Commanding General, XV Corps, to the vicinity of (Q0800) to the vicinity of

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KIRBERG (Q5125); the 92d Reconnaissance Squadron to await orders in Corps reserve in the vicinity of ERKARTSVILLER (Q7230). The 493d and 494th Armored Field Artillery Battalions were attached to the 44th Infantry Division and the 495th Armored Field Artillery Battalion was attached to the 100th Infantry Division; these units were directed to join their respective divisions as soon as possible. Operations Instructions 60, XV Corps, (in compliance with attachment order 4 December, Headquarters Seventh Army), dated 4 December 1944, was published sending the 45th and 79th Infantry Divisions and the 14th Armored Division, with all current attachments, to VI Corps, the transfer to be completed by 050001 December. Regimental Combat Team 397 reverted to the 100th Infantry Division, but the 45th Infantry Division was to continue supporting RCT 397 in its attack until that unit passed into XV Corps zone. The boundary between XV Corps and VI Corps coincided with the existing boundary between the 45th and 100th Infantry Division.

a. All units of the 79th Infantry Division patrolled in their zones receiving sporadic artillery fire. The 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (attached to 79th Infantry Division) protected the division right flank while the 79th Reconnaissance Troop protected the division left flank.

b. The 45th Infantry Division continued its attacks to the northeast and to the west to outflank the enemy in the WILHEIMAU (Q7634) - WINGEN (Q7335) area. Some readjustments were also effected during the period.

(1) The 1st Battalion 180th Infantry reached (Q934345) against small arms and mortar fire before being relieved by elements of the 179th Infantry. Upon relief, the 1st Battalion 180th Infantry assembled at ENGWILLER (Q9131). The 2d Battalion was in division reserve south of MIESESHEIM (Q9331) while the 3d Battalion held its positions in MIESESHEIM.

(2) The 1st Battalion 179th Infantry was in regimental reserve at ENGWILLER (Q9131). The 2d Battalion relieved elements of the 180th Infantry in the vicinity of (Q938338). The 3d Battalion was subjected to small arms, mortar and artillery fire at (Q9353).

(3) The 1st Battalion 157th Infantry (Q915370) made little progress because of stubborn enemy resistance. The 3d Battalion was more successful, advancing rapidly, clearing OBERBRONN (Q9038) and reaching the vicinity of (Q9139) by the end of the period. The 2d Battalion remained in regimental reserve at (Q918396) - (Q913392).

(4) The 397th Infantry of the 100th Infantry Division (attached to the 45th Infantry Division) attacked in its zone. The 1st Battalion moved out at 1200 and encountered little resistance in reaching the road junction at (Q792331). The 2d and 3d Battalions did not fare so well, meeting determined resistance with small arms, mortars and artillery. At the end of the period the 2d Battalion was at (Q843350) and the 3d Battalion at (Q3834).

c. The 100th Infantry Division continued its attack to the northeast west of the VOSGES.

(1) The 398th Infantry attacked at 0730. One company of the 1st Battalion had been out of contact with the battalion since the preceding day. This company was believed to be in the outskirts of WINGEN. Other elements of the battalion attacked, though opposed by artillery and mortar fire, to capture WINGEN (7835). The 2d Battalion received considerable artillery and mortar fire in reac

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ing the line (Q718396) - (Q704394). The 3d Battalion advanced against little opposition and occupied the area (Q7237) - (Q7133) - (Q7137).

(2) The 399th Infantry moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of FUBE (Q6935). The 1st Battalion in the vicinity of FROHNHIL (Q6634) sent patrols toward HINSBOURG (Q6734). The 2d Battalion closed in the vicinity of (Q7023) while the 3d Battalion closed in the vicinity of (Q7034) sending patrols toward (Q694354) without contacting the enemy.

d. The 44th Infantry Division continued its attack.

(1) The 2d Battalion 114th Infantry advanced and secured the high ground east of ROESERT (Q6938) but withdrew to better positions east of VOLKSBERG (Q6839) because of the exposure to hostile observation and direct fire. The 1st Battalion advanced through VOLKSBERG to the south edge of the town meeting only moderate resistance. The 3d Battalion remained in the vicinity of (Q6636).

(2) The 3d Battalion 324th Infantry attacked towards RATZWILLER (Q6339) reaching the vicinity of (Q6339). Elements of the 2d Battalion reached Hill 264 (Q6139); other elements of the battalion were pinned down by enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire necessitating a withdrawal later to the vicinity of DIEMERINGEN (Q6038). The 1st Battalion followed the 3d Battalion, mopping up the woods in the rear.

(3) Little activity occurred in the 71st Infantry zone. The 1st Battalion closed in DIEMERINGEN (Q6038), the 3d Battalion was at WAIHAMBACH (Q6236) while the 2d Battalion was at MACKWILLER (Q5936). Patrols were sent out to the northeast, north and northwest.

e. The 14th Armored Division continued its movement to the division assembly area in the vicinity of HOCKFELDEN (Q8717).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 63 counterbattery missions during the period. Harassing missions were fired in the vicinity of RAHLING (Q6143), ROHRBACH (Q6549) and BITCHE (Q7750).

g. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained close contact with the units on the right and the left. Exits from the VOSGES were blocked.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron had elements at SPARSBACH (Q7630), ROHRBACH (Q6549) - (Q790323) and (Q800323) to deny the enemy use of the passes.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron had elements at ERKARTSWILLER (Q7230), ROSTIG (Q7037) and south of WILLENAU (Q7634) to guard against enemy attempts to use these exits.

h. XV Corps Anti-aircraft artillery engaged six enemy ME-109's, destroying four.

i. XV Corps Engineers installed trestle bridges at (Q609366) and (Q894357) completed a timber bridge at (Q907273), and removed road blocks and mines.

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j. A total of 141 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period; the 79th Infantry Division, the 44th Infantry Division 57, the 45th Infantry Division and the 100th Infantry Division.

5. 5 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued the advance to the northeast against slackening resistance. The 45th Infantry Division, 79th Infantry Division and 14th Armored Division passed to the control of the VI Corps at 0001. Effective at 050001 December, the Corps east (R) boundary was the line: DANNE ET QUATRE VENTS (Q6818) - ERKARTSWILLER (Q7230) - BAERENTHAL (Q8442) - NEUNHOFFEN (Q9146) - OBENSTEINBACH (Q9648) - FISCHBACH (Q9854), all inclusive to XV Corps. This boundary was the same as that previously assigned by Corps order. Field Order 7, Seventh Army, dated 2 December 1944, established the boundary between XII Corps and XV Corps (Corps west (L) boundary) as follows: FENEETRANGE (Q4727) - THAL (Q5634), both inclusive to XV Corps - LORENTZEN (Q5939) - ROHRBACH (Q6549) - WEISKIRCH (Q7156) - WINTERBACH (Q8078), all exclusive to XV Corps.

a. In the zone of the 100th Infantry Division:

(1) Combat team 397 reverted to division control at 0001 as directed by Operations Instructions No. 60. The 2d Battalion 397th Infantry moved to more favorable positions in the vicinity of (Q843354) at 0430, and continued its advance at 0800 to the west and northwest against intermittent resistance, securing REIPERTSWILLER (Q8036) by 1800. The 3d Battalion, meanwhile, remained in the vicinity of (Q830349). The 1st Battalion continued the advance at 0730 against scattered resistance and some mines. By 1600 the battalion had seized WIMMENAU (Q7634), meeting moderate resistance.

(2) The 1st Battalion of the 398th Infantry attacked WINGEN (Q7435) at 1120 and captured the town by 1200. The 2d Battalion sent patrols to MEISENTHAL (Q7241) and SOUCHT (Q7040) and made contact with the 2d Battalion of the 114th Infantry on its left flank. Hill 355 north of ROSTEIG (Q7137) was taken by the 3d Battalion.

(3) The 3d Battalion of the 399th Infantry advanced at 0730 generally astride the WINGEN - SARREINSBERG road reaching the line: (Q742593) - (Q728396) without opposition. The 1st Battalion which was in regimental reserve closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of HEIDELBECK (Q7336) by 1715; the 2d Battalion closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of (Q7034) by 0900.

b. The 44th Infantry Division advanced north during the day.

(1) There was no change in the disposition of the 1st Battalion of the 114th Infantry which remained in position in the vicinity of (Q6740), except that Company C patrolled to the vicinity of (Q6741) but returned to NJ (Q63049) after 1500. The 2d Battalion secured the high ground east of ROESERT by 1100 in the face of moderate resistance; the 3d Battalion advanced north at 0800 from VOLKSBERG (Q6838), cleared the BOIS le SCHEIDWALD against moderate resistance and returned to the vicinity of VOLKSBERG by 1410.

(2) The remainder of the 2d Battalion 324th Infantry joined Company G in the vicinity of (Q6239) by 1030, then advanced northeast and seized the high ground at (Q636421); the 3d Battalion attacked RATZWILLER (Q6439) at 1100 against

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light opposition clearing the town by 1230 and continued the advance to secure BUTTEN (Q6341). The 1st Battalion occupied the high ground in the vicinity of (Q6342).

(3) The 71st Infantry was held in Division reserve, to be employed on Corps order only. The 1st Battalion maintained contact with the 25th Cavalry Squadron (4th Armored Division, VII Corps) on the XV Corps left flank and moved to LORENTZEN (Q5939), closing at 1530. At 1500, the 2d Battalion moved to DIEMER-INGEN (Q5938); the 3d Battalion remained in the vicinity of WALDHALBACH (Q6236).

c. The 12th Armored Division was attached to XV Corps on 5 December at 0001 by Headquarters Seventh Army attachment letter of 3 December. Elements of the Division commenced movement to the division assembly area near KIRBERG (Q5125) as directed by XV Corps Movement Orders, 4 December 1944.

(1) CCA moved from the vicinity of LUNEVILLE at 0700, closing in vicinity of KIRBERG at 1555 where the Division CP opened at 1730.

(2) CCB and CCR remained in reserve in the vicinity of LUNEVILLE.

(3) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in the vicinity of ESCHWILLER (Q5429) in Corps reserve.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 11 counterbattery missions during the period. Approximately 53 battalion volleys were fired during the night on the areas of MONTBRONN (Q6843) and LELBERG (Q7344) on prepared road interdictions and harassing missions.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained contact between the 45th and 100th Infantry Divisions, patrolling to the north in its zone.

(1) Troop A of 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron relieved Troop B which reverted to Squadron reserve at INGWILLER (Q8130). Troop A occupied position NW of ROTHBACH (Q8434) and outposted the ROTHBACH - REIPERTSWILLER road; Troop C advanced with elements of 397th Infantry and outposted the INGWILLER - REIPERTSWILLER road.

(2) Troop C of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in position west and southwest of WIMMENAU throughout the period. One platoon of Troop B occupied ROSTEIG (Q7137); the remainder of the squadron was in the vicinity of ERKARTSWILLER (Q7230).

f. The 436th AAA AV Battalion engaged 8 ME-109's at 1150. The 895th AAA AV Battalion engaged 2 ME-109's at 1200. The 436th AAA AV Battalion engaged 1 ME-109 at 1215. No enemy aircraft were shot down by Corps troops during the day.

g. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 45 foot span bridge at (Q609353).

h. Five fighter-bomber missions were flown in support of XV Corps during the period but close support was prevented by poor visibility. Bombing and strafing attacks on secondary targets in the KARLSRUHE (R4746) and MANTHELI (R5398) areas were conducted with damage to ~~marshalling yards~~ railroad stock and barges.

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i. A total of 92 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day. Of this number the 44th Infantry Division captured 68 and the 100th Infantry Division 24.

6. 6 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued to advance to the northeast liberating the towns of WILDENGUTH (Q7938), MELCH (Q7949), LOUTERHOUSE (Q7942), SOUCHT (Q7040), MEISENTHAL (Q7241), SARREINSBERG (Q7442), GOETZENBRUCK (Q7442), ST LOUIS LES BITCHE (Q7243) and MONTBRONN (Q6944). As directed by Operations Instructions No. 62, one combat command of the 12th Armored Division prepared to relieve the 4th Armored Division (XII Corps) in position.

a. In accordance with Operations Instructions No. 62, the 100th Infantry Division moved to secure its objective designated in Field Order 14, (the capture of BITCHE (Q8150) and the breaching of the MAGNOT Line), prepared to continue the attack to the northeast.

(1) The 1st Battalion 397th Infantry moved northeast from WIMMENAU (Q763). Company A occupied WILDENGUTH (Q7837) and the remainder of the battalion occupied MELCH (Q7940). The 2d Battalion moved from REIPERESWILLER (Q8036) to the vicinity of LOUTERHOUSE (Q7942) and prior to dark was in position blocking all roads leading from the town. The 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve in the vicinity of LICHTENBERG (Q8135). No enemy contact was made.

(2) The 3d Battalion of the 399th Infantry, followed by the 1st Battalion continued the attack at 0730 from positions at (Q742393) - (Q728396). No enemy resistance was encountered initially and the advance was rapid. By 0830 SARREINSBERG (Q7441), GOETZENBRUCK (Q7442), and Plateau 409 (Q7342) were secured by the 3d Battalion. The attack continued through the woods east of the LEBERG Road where it was slowed by moderate enemy resistance. By the end of the period units had advanced to (Q752438) - (Q745441) - (Q738442). The 1st Battalion moved to GOETZENBRUCK and sent patrols to ST LOUIS LES BITCHE (Q7243) and along the SARREINSBERG - LOUTERHOUSE Road. The 2d Battalion in regimental reserve moved to the vicinity (Q7341).

(3) At 1500 the 1st Battalion of the 398th moved from the vicinity of WINGEN (Q7435) to MEISENTHAL. The 2d Battalion in the vicinity of SOUCHT (Q7040), outposted and patrolled the high ground along the line: (Q693596) - (Q696415) - (Q706416). The 3d Battalion advanced at 0830, occupied MEISENTHAL, and continued its advance to ST LOUIS LES BITCHE, occupying the town and patrolling the high ground in the vicinity of (Q7042) and (Q7144). No enemy contact was made.

b. In accordance with Operations Instructions No. 62 the 44th Infantry Division moved to secure the objective (seize high ground south of WILDENGUTH (Q7141) and breach the MAGNOT Line) designated in Field Order 14, prepared to continue the attack to the northeast.

(1) The 1st Battalion 114th Infantry, followed by the 3d Battalion, advanced at 0730 from the vicinity of (Q6740) to the high ground west and southeast of MONTBRONN (Q6914) which it reached, despite numerous mines and roadblocks, by 1330. At 1457 the 3d Battalion attacked MONTBRONN from the west supported by the 1st Battalion from positions southeast of the town. No resistance was met until the leading elements of the 3d Battalion reached the eastern edge of the town where

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they received sharp 20mm fire. The town was cleared by 1830. The 2d Battalion remained in the vicinity of VOLKSEBERG (Q6838).

(2) Patrols of the 324th Infantry during the early hours of the period discovered indications that the enemy had withdrawn. At 0800 the 2d Battalion from the vicinity of (Q6342) moved northeast to the high ground in the vicinity of (Q6444). The advance was continued against intermittent resistance and by 1630 it had reached the vicinity of (Q6747). At 0830 the 1st Battalion moved northeast on the BUTTEN (Q6241) - GUNSBURG (Q6846) Road making slow progress due to enemy demolitions. By 1645 the 1st Battalion had reached the vicinity of (Q669457). The 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve in the vicinity of (Q6443) with Company L at (Q6644).

(3) The 71st Infantry remained in Division reserve. The 2d Battalion moved from the vicinity of DIMIERINGEN (Q6038) to BUTTEN (Q6241). The 1st and 3d Battalions remained near LORENTZEN (Q5939) and WALDHALBACH (Q6236), respectively.

c. In accordance with Operations Instructions No. 62, elements of the 12th Armored Division prepared to move to relieve the 4th Armored Division (XII Corps).

(1) CCA of the 12th Armored Division was designated to relieve the 4th Armored Division in position.

(2) CCB moved from the vicinity of JUNEVILLE (Q0800) closing in the division assembly area in the vicinity of KIRPBERG (Q5024) at 1110.

(3) CCR moved from the vicinity of LUNEVILLE (Q0800) closing in the division assembly area in the vicinity of HELLERING (Q5124) at 1431.

d. XV Corps Artillery continued to fire prepared missions of road runners and harassing fires in the PETIT-PEDERCHING (Q6851) - LILBERG (Q7445) - EICHENBERG (Q7146) area. The 697th FA Battalion (240mm How) fired on Fort SCHLESSECK in the vicinity of BITCHE (Q7750). During the day all field artillery groups fired long range harassing missions in the vicinity of MONBRONN (Q6944).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to cover the Corps right flank and maintain contact with the VI Corps.

(1) In the zone of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron elements reconnoitered north to a point 1 Km southeast of MOUTERHOUSE, and northeast to a line: (Q865363) - (Q865380) - (Q843390). The town of PECHELFROTH (Q8539) was found to be occupied by the enemy. Troop B remained in squadron reserve at INGWILLER (Q8030). Troop E occupied a position 1 Km north of LICHTENBERG (Q8135).

(2) The CP of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron moved to WILHEIMAU (Q7634). Troop B conducted route reconnaissance in the area: WILHEIMAU - REIPERTS-WILLER - ROTHBACH until relieved by Troop A at 1400. Troop B reverted to Squadron reserve. Troops C and E remained in Squadron reserve in the vicinity of INGWILLER (Q8030).

f. Four unidentified aircraft were reported northwest of SAVERNE at 2226 flying west. One aircraft was engaged by Battery C 214th AAA Gun Battalion with negative results.

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g. XV Corps Engineers completed a Class 40 timber bridge at (0612350) and a 30 foot treadway bridge at (0644430).

h. XII TAC supported XV Corps with 3 flights of 40 sorties. Planes were directed to attack secondary targets as poor visibility prevented close support missions. Eighteen tons of 500 lb bombs were dropped on the marshalling yards at SPEYER (R5180) and LANDAU (R2867), destroying railroad cars and 1 gun position and damaging railroad cars, locomotives and buildings.

i. A total of 89 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the day: Of this number the 44th Infantry Division captured 82 and the 100th Infantry Division 7.

7. 7 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued its advance against heavy enemy resistance. The 12th Armored Division commenced the relief of the 4th Armored Division (XII Corps) during the period.

a. The 100th Infantry Division was directed by Operations Instructions No. 63 to continue the attack on 8 December to develop the SIEGFRIED LINE in the right (east) portion of Corps zone. (after the MAGINOT LINE had been secured)

(1) The 1st Battalion of the 397th Infantry moved from MELCH (Q7940) at 0900 to the vicinity of (Q7843) and blocked the MOUTERHOUSE - LELBERG road northwest of MOUTERHOUSE (Q7942). Against stiff enemy resistance the 2d Battalion attacked the town of MOUTERHOUSE and engaged in heavy street fighting there until the close of the period. The 3d Battalion moved at 0900 from LICHTENBERG (Q8135) to MELCH (Q7940), prepared to move north toward MOUTERHOUSE.

(2) Following a ten minute preparation by Division and Corps Artillery the 399th Infantry continued its attack to the north at 0930. The 3d Battalion on the right of the SARREINSBERG (Q7441) - LEMBERG (Q7444) road attacked to seize the hills in the vicinity of (Q7643), (Q7545) and (Q7445). After making short gains the advance was halted by intense enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire from pillboxes, dug-in armored vehicles and well entrenched positions. The attack was resumed after friendly artillery laid down concentrations on the enemy positions. Limited gains were made during the afternoon and the hill at (Q746446) was taken before dark. The 1st Battalion moved north from the woods in the vicinity of (Q732433). It encountered heavy enemy fires on both flanks and after a slight advance found it impracticable to hold its new positions and withdrew to the battalion's original position. The 2d Battalion moved from its assembly area in the vicinity of (Q735415) to GOETZENBRUCK (Q7442).

(3) The 3d Battalion of the 398th Infantry advanced to the north from ST LOUIS LES BITCHE (Q7243) and patrolled and outposted the vicinity of (Q7343) and (Q7245). The 2d Battalion remained on the high ground north of GOUCHT (Q7039), patrolling and outposting the vicinity of (Q7041), (Q7042), (Q6941) and (Q6939). The battalion maintained contact with the 114th Infantry (44th Infantry Division) on the battalion's left flank. The 1st Battalion reorganized in the vicinity of MEISENTHAL (Q7140).

b.. The 44th Infantry Division was directed by Operations Instructions No. 63 to continue the attack on 8 December to develop the SIEGFRIED LINE within its zone. (after the MAGINOT LINE had been secured)

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(1) The 2d Battalion of the 324th Infantry at 0730 continued its advance northeast from the woods in the vicinity of (Q663468). It met moderate resistance but reached the high ground in the vicinity of (Q68448). The 1st Battalion advanced against stiff resistance to the division objective in the vicinity of (Q6848). Close support by armor was rendered difficult by the limited road net and the muddy terrain. The 3d Battalion moved at 0920 from SAUMHL (Q6443) to the vicinity of (Q6745), closing in the latter area by 1230.

(2) In the zone of the 114th Infantry the 1st Battalion attacked at 0730 northeast from MONTBRONN (Q6944) against ENCHENBERG (Q7146). Its leading elements reached the bridge in the vicinity of (Q7045) by 1100. The bridge had been destroyed and enemy artillery and machine gun fire covering the approaches held up the advance of the battalion at the south edge of the town. The 2d Battalion moved from ROBERT (Q6838) at 0700 to attack ENCHENBERG from the northwest. By 1700 the battalion had advanced to within 200 yards of the western exit of the town. Both battalions remained in position prepared to attack the following day. The 3d Battalion remained in the vicinity of MONTBRONN (Q6944).

(3) The 71st Infantry remained in division reserve, the 1st and 3d Battalions in the vicinity of RATZWILLER (Q6339) and the 2d Battalion in the vicinity of BUTTEN (Q6241).

c. The 12th Armored Division commenced moving north at 0524 from the vicinity of KIRBERG (Q5024) to relieve the 4th Armored Division (XII Corps) initially with CCA. The 4th Armored Division which had suffered heavy losses in its advance was withdrawn to XII Corps reserve.

(1) CCA closed in the vicinity of RAHLING (Q6243) by 0815. Elements of the combat command occupied positions in the vicinity of (Q6448), (Q6248) and (Q6249) where they relieved the 4th Armored Division.

(2) CCB and CCR remained in the vicinity of KIRBERG, prepared to move north on order.

d. XV Corps Artillery supported the attack with three counterbattery missions and 28 prepared missions. Seventeen rounds of 240mm were fired during the night, and 20 rounds (8" Gun) were fired on ALTHEIM (Q6963), BRENSCHELBACH (Q7061) and BOCKWEITZER (Q6764). Headquarters XV Corps Artillery displaced to TIETENBACH (Q6434).

e. The Corps cavalry continued to conduct reconnaissance of the VOSGES Mountain roads and trails along the line: (Q862398) - (Q856418) - (Q875417). Extensive road blocks made motorized reconnaissance impracticable.

f. The Corps engineers completed a Class 40 D.S. Bailey Bridge in the vicinity of (Q7634), a class 40 one-way Bailey Bridge in the vicinity of (Q7734), and constructed a trestle bridge at (Q6242). A road block was removed at (Q668403).

g. Due to adverse weather conditions there was no air support.

h. A total of 64 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the day: the 44th Infantry Division captured 15, the 100th Infantry Division 15.

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8. 8 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued the advance to the north as directed by Operations Instructions No. 63, XV Corps, dated 7 December 1944. Strong enemy resistance from dug-in positions was encountered along the Corps front; hostile mortar and artillery fire ranged in density and volume from moderate to intense.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued the attack to secure the MAGNOT Line and to develop the SIEGFRIED Line within its zone, west of the line: CAMP de BITCHE (Q8150) - EPPENBRUNN (Q8757).

(1) The 1st Battalion of the 397th Infantry cut the LEMBERG - MOUTERHOUSE road in the vicinity of (Q7843) against moderate resistance. The 2d Battalion completed mopping up scattered enemy groups in MOUTERHOUSE (Q7942). The 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve in the vicinity of MELCH (Q7940).

(2) In the 399th Infantry's zone the attack was renewed at 0730 to seize the high ground north and northeast of LEMBERG (Q7445). The 1st Battalion remained in positions along the edge of the woods (Q723442) - (Q736442) on the ST LOUIS - LEMBERG road most of the day. At 1700 the 1st Battalion made a coordinated attack with tanks on LEMBERG during the course of which it knocked out an enemy OP and destroyed a pillbox (Q737444). The battalion had entered the town and was mopping it up by the close of the period. Two of our tanks were disabled by mines during the attack. The 2d Battalion attacked against heavy small arms resistance to seize Hill 345 (Q759438) and Hill 405 (Q758452). By 1040 elements of the battalion had reached Hill 345 and had secured it by 1115. In the face of stubborn opposition the advance was continued and by 1215 Hills 405 and 329 (Q769452) were taken. Elements advanced to and cut the BITCHE - LEMBERG railroad by 1615, while other elements of the battalion were held up by machine gun fire at (Q765458). The advance of the 3d Battalion was slow due to heavy small arms, machine gun and 20mm flak gun fire. By 1505 forward elements had reached the underpass of the railroad at (Q745453).

(3) The 398th Infantry continued to protect the left flank of the division. The 1st Battalion remained in regimental reserve at WEISENTHAL (Q7140). The 2d Battalion moved from SOUCHT (Q7040) to ST LOUIS LES BITCHE (Q7243). The 3d Battalion blocked the road junction southeast of ENCHENBERG (Q7146) and relieved elements of the 399th Infantry at (Q724445). The 3d Battalion received intermittent artillery and mortar fire during the period.

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued the attack to secure the MAGNOT Line and to develop the SIEGFRIED Line within its zone.

(1) During the hours of darkness the 114th Infantry moved from the vicinity of (Q711461) to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Q6845). The regiment attacked at daylight with the mission of reducing enemy strong points in the vicinity of ENCHENBERG (Q7146). The 2d Battalion attempted to flank the town from the west and seize the high ground to the north of the town. The battalion encountered strong resistance from artillery, mortar and automatic weapons fire, but by the close of the period it had reached positions west of the objective in the vicinity of (Q7047). The 1st Battalion attacked the town from the south and made slow progress against strong resistance. When the period closed, leading elements were fighting in the south edge of ENCHENBERG. The 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve at MONTBRONN (Q6944).

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(2) The 1st Battalion of the 324th Infantry maintained OPs on Hill 348 in the vicinity of (Q6848). The 2d Battalion improved its positions on Hill 330 (Q670476) and to the west of it. The 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve at GUISEBERG (Q6747).

(3) There was no change in the dispositions of the 71st Infantry which remained in division reserve in the area: BUTTEN (Q6241) - RATZWILLER (Q6339).

c. The 12th Armored Division completed the relief of the 4th Armored Division (XII Corps).

(1) CCA completed the relief of the forward elements of the 4th Armored Division in the vicinity of RAHLING (Q6243) by 0600.

(2) CCR moved from its bivouac area in the vicinity of HEILLERING (Q5124) to an assembly area in the vicinity of RAHLING (Q6244), closing by 1655.

(3) At the end of the period CCB was moving from the vicinity of RAUVILLER (Q5424) to its assembly area in the vicinity of DEHLINGEN (Q6042).

d. XV Corps Artillery fired nine counterbattery missions and sixteen prepared missions of 185 volleys on the area: ROHMBACH (Q6549) - BITCHE (Q7750) during the period.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group covered the Corps right (east) flank and maintained contact with VI Corps.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to conduct reconnaissance towards BAERENTHAL (Q8442) and to an area near (Q817426). Upon relief by the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron at 1100, it moved to reserve positions at WIMMENAU (Q7635).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, following the relief of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, continued to patrol the area, encountering the enemy at (Q862398), (Q856418) and (Q875417). Approximately forty enemy were observed in dug-in positions at (Q818437) and others at (Q820427) and (Q821429). The town of BAERENTHAL (Q8442) was found to be occupied.

f. XV Corps Engineers completed a 40 foot SS Bailey Bridge by 1530 at (Q643436), an 80 foot DS Bailey Bridge at (Q603366) by 1530 and a 27 foot timber trestle bridge at (Q673407) by 1500.

g. Air support by the XII TAC comprised four missions consisting of 46 sorties during the day. Due to low clouds and rain, most of the targets were secondary as close support was impracticable. Twelve planes attacked CAMP de BITCHE at 1340. Fourteen direct hits and 8 near misses were reported, eleven buildings were destroyed and eight were damaged. Night fighters operated over XV Corps front.

h. A total of 92 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 61 and the 100th Infantry Division 31.

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9. 9 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued the advance to the north against stubborn enemy resistance. The towns of LEMBERG (Q7445), ENCHENBERG (Q7146), BINING BARRACKS (Q6549) and SINGLING (Q6249) were occupied.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its advance.

(1) The 2d Battalion 397th Infantry attacked from Hill 415 (Q755447) at 0900 and seized its objective in the vicinity of (Q796446). The 3d Battalion moved to MOUTERHOUSE and attacked to seize the high ground in the vicinity of (Q784460). It was held up in the vicinity of (Q7944) - (Q7843) by flak, small arms, automatic weapon and mortar fire. The 1st Battalion protected MOUTERHOUSE and the high ground to the north. It also blocked the road net in the vicinity of (Q7843).

(2) The 2d Battalion of the 399th Infantry attacked to seize the high ground near HOCHFIRST (Q7645). Elements of the battalion reached this objective while others were held up at the railroad. The 1st and 3d Battalions continued to clear LEMBERG (Q7344) against strong opposition consisting of small arms, automatic weapons and artillery fire.

(3) In the zone of the 398th Infantry the 1st Battalion remained in regimental reserve at HEISENTHAL (Q7140). The 2d Battalion moved to the vicinity of SARREINSBERG (Q7441). The 3d Battalion assembled in the vicinity of ST LOUIS LES BITCHE (Q7243).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued its advance.

(1) The 114th Infantry attacked to the north at 0900. The 1st Battalion took the town of ENCHENBERG (Q7146) and advanced elements to the high ground at (Q721460). The 2d Battalion was held up all day by artillery and mortar fire along the railroad east of ENCHENBERG but by the end of the period had advanced to (Q703469) and had made contact with elements of the 1st Battalion. The 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve in the vicinity of MONTBRONN (Q6944).

(2) The 324th Infantry improved its positions and maintained patrol contact with the enemy in the area southeast of BINING (Q6448) without change in the relative location of its battalions.

(3) The 71st Infantry moved to a reserve area in the vicinity of (Q675435).

c. The 12th Armored Division began its attack to the north and northeast.

(1) CCA organized TASK FORCE CUNNINGHAM (17th Inf Bn, 1 Plat mod tanks, 1 Plat light tanks, 1 Plat of Engrs) and TASK FORCE WELLS (66th Inf Bn, (less C B), 1 Co mod tanks, 1 Plat light tanks, 1 Plat Engrs). GOCB organized TASK FORCE NOUESEL (Co B, 66th Inf, 2 Cos mod tanks, 1 Plat light tanks, 1 Plat Engrs, 1 Plat Cav). Task Force WELLS attacked at 0400, captured SINGLING (Q6249) and then advanced to Hill 367 (Q635506) north of the town. Task Force CUNNINGHAM attacked at 1300 and secured BINING BARRACKS (Q6549). Task Force NOUESEL initially supported both task forces by fire. Task Force NOUESEL subsequently advanced to the vicinity of (Q651507). The 23d Tank Battalion plus a company of armored infantry attacked at 1300 from the vicinity of (Q6447) towards BETTVILLER (Q6753) and, after being delayed by mine fields in the vicinity of (Q655475), ended the period in the area of (Q663488).

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(2) CCB closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of DEHLINGEN (Q6042).

(3) OOR remained in the vicinity of RAHLING (Q6244).

d. XV Corps Artillery fired a total of 18 counterbattery missions during the period. Interdiction and harassing missions were fired along the Corps front during the night.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group conducted reconnaissance in the VOSGES and maintained contact with VI Corps.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued reconnaissance in the vicinity of BAERENTHAL (Q8442) and in the vicinity of (Q8242) - (Q8441) and (Q8142). All patrols made contact with the enemy.

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in reserve in the WIM ENAU (Q7643), INGWILLER (Q8130) and SPARSBACH (Q7630) area.

f. XV Corps Engineers constructed Class 40 timber trestle bridges at (Q610365) and (Q643430), one-way Class 40 timber bridge at (Q607367) and a fixed timber bridge at (Q673407).

g. Adverse weather conditions prevented air support.

h. A total of 119 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 43, the 100th Infantry Division 58, the 12th Armored Division 16, and Corps troops 2.

10. 10 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued its advance to the north against moderate resistance. In some areas gains up to three kilometers were made.

a. In the zone of the 100th Infantry Division elements of the 397th Infantry attacked at 0715 against moderate resistance, consisting of rifle, automatic rifle and 20mm fire. The 1st Battalion attacked and advanced to Hill 321 (Q783441). The 2d Battalion began its attack at 0930, reaching Hill 342 (Q800457) by the end of the day. The 3d Battalion advanced to the vicinity of (Q7846) sending elements on to (Q789465).

(1) The 1st Battalion 399th Infantry cleared LEMBERG (Q7445) and after reorganizing, patrolled to the northwest. The 3d Battalion reorganized in the northeast section of LEMBERG and then moved to the high ground in the vicinity of SCHLOSSBERG (Q7446) and the vicinity of (Q7346). Patrols were sent out from these positions but no contact with the enemy was made. The 2d Battalion advanced to secure the high ground in the vicinity of (Q7445) - (Q7545). The 1st Battalion at 1615 moved to the vicinity of ST LOUIS LES BITCHE (Q7243) where it closed at 1800.

(2) The 2d Battalion of the 398th Infantry, which was attached to the 399th Infantry, attacked to the north against moderate resistance from small arms and mortar fire, and reached (Q772465) by 1345. At 1700 the battalion reverted to

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regimental control in position and the 3d Battalion 398th Infantry moved through the 399th Infantry and advanced to the vicinity of (Q7446). The 1st Battalion moved to the vicinity of (Q7545) without opposition.

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued its attack. The 3d Battalion of the 114th Infantry moved from the vicinity of MONTBRONN (Q6944), passing through the 1st Battalion in the vicinity of ENCHENBERG (Q7146) at 0835, and against strong resistance from small arms and artillery, reached the vicinity of (Q7147). The 2d Battalion attacked along the railroad in order to clear out the enemy and make contact with the 324th Infantry while other elements of the battalion reached (Q697483). The 1st Battalion remained in the vicinity of ENCHENBERG protecting the right flank.

(1) After extensive reconnaissance the 1st Battalion 324th Infantry attacked at 1230, but made slow progress due to strong resistance from small arms, mortar and automatic weapons fire. The 2d Battalion attacked at 1425 from the west and captured MAIERHOF (Q6950) relieving some of the pressure on the 1st Battalion and allowing that unit to advance to the vicinity of (Q6950). The 3d Battalion moved to an assembly area at (Q668492).

(2) In the 71st Infantry the 1st Battalion moved at 1400 to an assembly area near (Q700455) and outposted the line (Q720485) - (Q714452). The 2d Battalion moved at 1430 to MONTBRONN. The 3d Battalion remained in the vicinity of (Q6743).

c. In the zone of the 12th Armored Division, Task Force BEIGS (23d Tank Battalion with Co B, 56th Armored Infantry Battalion attached) of CCA began moving north from its assembly area in the vicinity of OBERSTAHL (Q6447) at 0800 being forced to detour to the south and west because of mine fields. The task force jumped off from the line: MUELLER - MATHIS (Q657487) at 1000 towards LE SIMESBERG (Q6752). The advance reached the high ground at (Q675505) but flanking antitank and artillery fire forced its withdrawal to a position south of the railroad in the vicinity of (Q7550). Task Force CUNNINGHAM attacked ROHRBACH (Q4965) at 0830, met slight resistance there and reached the high ground in the vicinity of (Q6550) by 1500. Task Force CUNNINGHAM maintained positions in the vicinity of (Q6450). Task Force WEISS remained in position on the high ground north of SINGLING (Q4962) and Hill 367.

(1) There was no change in the dispositions of CCB or CCR.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 17 counterbattery missions during the period. Twenty-six observed missions were fired on tanks, personnel, and OPs. During the night 12 prepared missions were fired.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group patrolled its zone, maintaining contact with adjacent units.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued patrolling towards BAERENTHAL (Q8442) and FOURNEAU-NEUF (Q8143), both of which towns were found to be occupied by the enemy. The squadron OP was forced to withdraw from the vicinity of (Q8341) at 1445 by an attack from an estimated 75-man German patrol.

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in group reserve in the area: WILLENAU - ENGELHART - SPARSACK

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f. XV Corps Engineers completed a 24 foot Class 40 trestle bridge at (Q742440), constructed 1-way trestle bridges at (Q573383) and (Q573384) and constructed a floating trestle bridge at (Q573385) and a Class 40, one-way trestle bridge at (Q610365).

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g. No close air support could be given XV Corps because of poor visibility. Four flights totalling 46 sorties were over the Corps zone during the period. One flight dropped its bombs on the canal and the railroad at RODALBEN (Q2435) destroying three buildings.

h. A total of 289 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 182, the 100th Infantry Division 90, and Corps troops 17.

11. 11 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued the advance to the northeast against moderate resistance, liberating the towns of PETIT-REDERCHING (Q6951), LALBACH (Q7348), MORNHIL (Q7150) and SIERSTHAL (Q7249).

a. In the zone of the 100th Infantry Division the attack continued to the north.

(1) The 1st Battalion 397th Infantry assembled in the vicinity of MOUTERHOUSE (Q7942). The 2d Battalion remained in position in the vicinity of (Q8045) and sent patrols to the north, east and west. The 3d Battalion sent strong patrols to the vicinity of Hill 395 (Q789463). Prior to 1630 these patrols occupied Hill 395 though subjected to heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire.

(2) The 398th Infantry commenced its attack at 0730 with the 2d and 3d Battalions passing through the 399th Infantry. The 2d Battalion occupied the high ground in the vicinity of (Q7747); from this locality it continued its advance to the high ground in the vicinity of (Q7747). The enemy opposed these moves with heavy artillery, mortar, automatic weapons and small arms fire. The 3d Battalion advanced against artillery and small arms fire and secured the high ground in the vicinity of (Q753480). The battalion halted and patrolled to the west at 1600. The 1st Battalion (Q755450) cleared the ridge in the vicinity of (Q760469) and patrolled to (Q762478).

(3) The 399th Infantry remained in division reserve. The 3d Battalion was at SCHLOSSBERG (Q7446) and HOCHPELT (Q7445). The 2d Battalion moved from the high ground in the vicinity of (Q748457) - (Q758457) to an area in the vicinity of GOETZENBRUCK (Q7472). The 1st Battalion remained at (Q755450).

b. In the zone of the 44th Infantry Division the attack was continued to the north.

(1) The 114th Infantry attacked at 0715. The 2d and 3d Battalions advanced against moderate resistance and by 1000 had secured the high ground at (Q718488) - (Q704497) holding these positions until relieved at 1100 by elements of the 71st Infantry. The regiment assembled in the vicinity of ENCHEBERG (Q7146) in division reserve at 1800 after the 71st Infantry had passed through it.

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(2) The 324th Infantry attacked at 1515. The 1st Battalion advanced rapidly against moderate resistance and by 1250 leading elements had entered the outskirts of the town of PETIT-REDERCHING (Q6951). The 2d Battalion advancing under fire from 88mm guns and enemy tanks, reached the outskirts of PETIT-REDERCHING by 1500. Both battalions assisted in the clearing of the town and by 1710 the major portion of the town was theirs. The 3d Battalion (Q665498) remained in reserve and continued to protect the left flank of the division.

(3) The 71st Infantry attacked at 1515 with the 2d and 3d Battalions passing through the 114th Infantry to seize the high ground in the vicinity of (Q717503) - (Q735505). The occupation of LAMBACH (Q7348) by reconnaissance element of the 2d Battalion was opposed by automatic weapons to the east of the town; other elements encountered automatic weapons and mortar fire in occupying SIERSTHAL (Q7249). The 1st Battalion moved to the vicinity of LAMBACH and relieved elements of the 2d Battalion and outposted the Division left flank. At approximately 1800 the 3d Battalion secured FROHEUHL (Q7150) against intermittent resistance.

c. In the zone of the 12th Armored Division the attack was continued to the north.

(1) In the zone of CCA, Task Force "4" (Q6851), formerly Task Force REIGS attacked at 1020 advancing 1200 yards to the north engaging twelve enemy tanks and destroying one. The task force then withdrew to its original position at (Q682516) due to antitank, artillery and mortar fire. Task Force "1" and "2" formerly Task Force NOUESEL and Task Force WILLS, respectively, attacked at 1120. Both were successful in reaching their objective the high ground just west of GUIRING (Q6552). They also withdrew to their original positions (Q635510) at approximately 1700 because of antitank and artillery fire. Task Force "3", formerly Task Force CUNNINGHAM, attacked at 1400, but made little progress against the effective hostile artillery, mortar and small arms fire, the latter being delivered from concrete pillboxes. The end of the period found Task Force "3" in the vicinity of (Q666519).

(2) CCB moved at 0400 to an assembly area in the vicinity of SINGLING (Q6249), closing at 0900.

(3) CCR remained in the area of RAHLING (Q6244).

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 11 counterbattery missions during the period. Prepared harassing missions were fired on supply points, reported command posts and enemy infantry during the night. Headquarters XV Corps Artillery displaced to MONTBRONN (Q6944) closing at 1300.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued its patrolling.

(1) In the zone of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron active patrolling was conducted in the vicinity of BAERENTHAL (Q8442). The outpost located at (Q854414) was attacked at 1200 by an estimated force of twenty Germans and withdrew after inflicting casualties on the enemy. German patrols were observed at (Q848819), (Q858410) and (847425); enemy patrols were encountered at (Q848410) but withdrew. Elements of the squadron moved from positions 1 kilometer north of MOUTERHOUSE at 0930 to positions astride the road 1 kilometer east of the town. The high ground in the vicinity of (Q8143) was found to be occupied by the enemy. BAERENTHAL was reported cleared by 1730 but the enemy held the high ground north and east of the town.

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(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in Group reserve in the WILHEIMAU (Q7634) - INGWILLER (Q8030) - SPARSBACH (Q7630) area.

f. XV Corps Engineers completed a Class 40, one-way, 50 foot, D.S. Bailey Bridge at (Q592393), and a treadway bridge at (Q643436).

g. The XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish close air support during the period because of adverse weather conditions.

h. A total of 54 prisoners was captured during the period. The 44th Infantry Division captured 6, the 100th Infantry Division 38 and the 12th Armored Division 10.

12. 12 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued to advance against sporadic artillery and mortar fire. Important tactical areas south and southeast of BITCHE (Q7750) were captured. The towns of BAERENTHAL (Q8342), HOLBACH (Q7151), HOELLING (Q6752), BETTVILLER (Q6753) and GUIRING (Q6552) were liberated.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued the attack to the north against moderate artillery fire.

(1) The 1st Battalion 397th Infantry advanced at 1015 against scattered artillery fire and by 1630 had seized the high ground southeast of BITCHE (Q7750). The 2d Battalion (Q8045) continued to protect the right flank of the division while the 3d Battalion advanced to Hill 430 (Q796468) against scattered artillery, mortar and sniper fire. The entire regiment was subjected to intermittent small arms fire all through the period.

(2) The 398th Infantry attacked at daylight. The 2d Battalion advanced to the vicinity of (Q7748) against heavy artillery, anti-aircraft artillery, mortar and small arms fire. The 3d Battalion though subjected to both artillery and mortar fire advanced and seized the high ground in the vicinity of (Q7548). The 1st Battalion remained in regimental reserve near (Q755453).

(3) The 399th Infantry continued to protect the left flank and rear of the division and conducted training in the attack on fortified positions. The 1st Battalion trained in the vicinity of SCHLOSSBERG (Q7446) - HOCHFIRST (Q7445), the 2d Battalion in the vicinity of GOETZENBRUCK (Q7472) and the 3d Battalion near (Q755450).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued the attack to the north.

(1) The 71st Infantry attacked at 0900 with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast and encountered scattered small arms and mortar fire. By the end of the period the battalions had reached the line (Q7441) - (Q7341). The 1st Battalion closed in its forward assembly area in the vicinity of (Q7250) at 2000 and prepared to attack the following day.

(2) The 1st Battalion 324th Infantry attacked at 0600 and seized the high ground at (Q696514). It resumed the attack at 1000 capturing GROSNIEDER FARM (Q712518) at 1300 and WEISCHOF FARM (Q708502) at 1730. The 2d Battalion

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attacked at 0755, advanced against heavy mortar fire, and reached the high ground in the vicinity of (Q6952). The 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve at PETIT-REDERCHING (Q6951).

(3) The 114th Infantry Regiment continued in division reserve with the regiment, less the 3d Battalion, in the vicinity of ENCHEMBERG (Q7146). The 3d Battalion protected the division right flank from the vicinity of (Q725484).

c. The 12th Armored Division continued the attack to the north with elements of the division jumping off at midnight.

(1) Task Force "4" (23d Tank Battalion and Co "B" of the 56th Armored Infantry Battalion) of CCA protected the division right flank from the vicinity of (Q6750) until 1200, then moved to ROHRBACH (Q6559) becoming the reserve of CCA. At 0001 Task Force "3" (17th Armored Infantry Battalion (rein)) attacked from the vicinity of (Q6650), reducing several pillboxes within its zone of advance. It continued the attack at 1340 and seized the town of HOELLING (Q6752) by 1600. Task Force "5" (714th Tank Battalion (rein)) attacked at 0400 crosscountry towards BETTVILLER (Q6753) against slight resistance but made slow progress due to the muddy condition of the terrain. Assisted by Task Force "1" (43d Tank Battalion (rein)) BETTVILLER was occupied by 1515. Task Force "1" attacked at 0800 from the vicinity of (Q645513), captured GUIRING (Q6552), then assisted Task Force "5" in taking BETTVILLER. Task Force "1" returned to GUIRING. Task Force "2" (66th Armored Infantry Battalion (rein)) remained in the vicinity of (Q6451).

(2) CCB moved to the vicinity of ROHRBACH (Q6559).

(3) CCR remained in the vicinity of RAHLING (Q6244).

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 19 counterbattery missions (13 of which were observed) and 27 harassing and registration missions, 12 of which were observed. During the night, 11 roadrunners were fired in the area south of VILLMUNSTER (Q7258).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued active patrolling in the vicinity of BAERENTHAL (Q8342) and the ridge to the west of the town and maintained contact with the 45th Infantry Division on the Corps right flank.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron covered the right flank of the 397th Infantry, blocking all roads and trails to the east in the vicinity of (Q8442).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied without opposition and outposted the town of BAERENTHAL late in the period. The enemy had already withdrawn. The squadron occupied the high ground in the vicinity of (Q818432) late in the afternoon without opposition.

f. XV Corps Engineers completed two Class 40 one-way Bailey Bridges at (Q598374) and (Q598364).

g. The XII Tactical Air Force flew forty-eight sorties in the Corps zone during the period. Twenty-four of the sorties bombed and strafed the BITCHE area and OP at (Q762514) in the zone of the 100th Infantry Division. Due to poor visibility the remaining 24 sorties engaged secondary targets, bombing and strafing the marshalling yards at LANDAU (R2766). Good results were reported.

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h. A total of 185 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: Corps troops captured 2, the 44th Infantry Division 145, the 100th Infantry Division 36, and the 12th Armored Division 2.

13. 13 DECEMBER 1944:

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XV Corps continued its advance to the northeast, coming into contact with the major defenses of the MAGINOT LINE which was stronger and more strongly defended in the Corps zone than elsewhere on the front of the Seventh Army. The extent of the enemy defensive organization and the details of organization of key installations are shown on sheets in Inclosure to this report. Units in the right portion of the Corps zone south of BITCHE prepared to assault the MAGINOT fortifications in that area. In the left portion of the zone the line was partially breached by the aggressive attack of Corps units on that flank.

a. The 100th Infantry Division advanced only slightly during the period.

(1) The 397th Infantry remained on the high ground at (Q7750) and (Q7946) which it had taken on 12 December. The regiment sent strong patrols to the north and northwest.

(2) The 398th Infantry renewed the attack at 0810. The 2d Battalion advanced against intermittent resistance and by 1530 had reached the high ground in the vicinity of (Q7649). The battalion readjusted its elements and consolidated its positions during the remainder of the period. The 3d Battalion, with one company of the 1st Battalion attached, seized REYERSVILLE (Q7549) and meeting no opposition occupied the high ground at (Q751500) prior to darkness. The 1st Battalion, less one company, remained in regimental reserve in the vicinity of (Q7545).

(3) The 399th Infantry, in division reserve, continued protecting the left flank and rear of the division and training for the attack of a fortified position. The 1st and 2d Battalions remained in positions at (Q7243) and (Q7442) respectively, while the 3d Battalion moved at 1500 to the vicinity of Hill 365 (Q772482) where it closed by 1730.

b. The 44th Infantry Division advanced northeast against intermittent resistance.

(1) The 71st Infantry renewed its attack at 0715 with the 1st and 2d Battalions abreast. The 1st Battalion, on the left, advanced rapidly initially against slight opposition until it reached the ridge at (Q728518) where artillery, mortar and small arms fire forced it halt for the night. The 2d Battalion, on the right, met strong resistance from enemy occupying prepared positions. LEGERET FARM (Q7451) was captured against strong enemy opposition employing mortars, small arms and automatic weapons, after which leading elements of the battalion advanced to FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551). At 1600 an enemy counterattack forced the withdrawal of these elements from FREUDENBERG FARM to LEGERET FARM. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve near (Q7351).

(2) In the zone of the 324th Infantry, one company of the 2d Battalion moved out at 0600 and seized the high ground at (Q692531) without opposition.

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The regiment continued the attack at 0755, the 1st and 2d Battalions abreast, making good progress against strong resistance consisting of small arms and mortar fire and intermittent artillery fire. By 0900, leading elements of the 2d Battalion occupied the high ground at (Q709539) and elements of the 1st Battalion positions at (Q715533) on the right of the 2d Battalion. The 2d Battalion continued on to the high ground at (Q709546) while the 1st Battalion moved elements by infiltration across the SCHMALB River and by 1700, held the general line: (Q722525) - (Q719529). At 1030 the 3d Battalion commenced movement forward from PETIT-REDERCHING, but was stopped at 1345 by intense artillery fire in the vicinity of (Q707528). Later in the day the 3d Battalion resumed its advance, fording the SCHMALB River, reaching the line: (Q716539) - (Q720533) which it secured by 2230.

(3) The 114th Infantry remained in division reserve at (Q7146).

c. The 12th Armored Division improved its positions and made a limited advance. The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron advanced at 1100 in the division zone to the line: (Q682546) - (Q684532) against considerable enemy mortar and artillery fire. There was no change in the dispositions of CCA, CCB and CCR.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 11 counterbattery missions. Four harassing missions were fired on the 361st V.G. Division C.P. (Q808510), 952d V.G. Regiment C.P. (Q882497), 953d V.G. Regiment C.P. (Q808510) and 361st Artillery Regiment C.P. (Q903523). During the night a total of 41 prepared harassing missions were fired on reported troops concentrations, CPs and roads in the vicinity of BITCHE (Q7750) and VOLMUNSTER (Q7258), including harassing missions fired in the vicinity of PIRMASENS (Q9067) and NIEDERRAUERBACH (Q7573) (both of these towns are on German soil).

e. The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Group reconnoitered to the north and northeast.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron conducted dismounted reconnaissance to the northeast, reaching the outskirts of STOCKBRONN (Q8948) and EGUELSHARDT (Q8246); both were found to be held by the enemy. Enemy OPs were located in the vicinity of (Q8246).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron conducted dismounted reconnaissance to the vicinity of NEUNHOFFEN (Q9146) and WALDECK (Q8446) where enemy fire was encountered. Many roads in the area reconnoitered were found to be covered with road blocks and heavily mined.

f. No air missions were flown in support of XV Corps because of inclement weather.

g. A total of 41 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: Corps troops captured 2, the 44th Infantry Division 23, and the 100th Infantry Division 16.

14. 14 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued the attack to breach the MAGINOT LINE.

a. In the zone of the 100th Infantry Division most of the period was spent in aggressive patrolling and in adjusting positions.

(1) Positions of the 397th Infantry were unchanged except for local

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(2) The 1st Battalion of the 398th Infantry passed through the 2d Battalion and advanced beyond FORT FREUDENBERG (Q7551) to FORT SCHLESSECK (Q7651) from which it was forced to withdraw because of strong enemy resistance. The 3d Battalion remained in position at (Q7650). The 3d Battalion advanced to (Q7651).

(3) The 399th Infantry at 0700 moved to positions along the BITCHE - LEMBERG road in the vicinity of the high ground around SCHOMBURG (Q7648). The 1st Battalion occupied the area: (Q766489) - (Q771490) - (Q773490) and sent patrols to the vicinity of the COLLEGE de BITCHE (Q7749). The 2d Battalion moved to division reserve in the vicinity of LEMBERG (Q7445) at 0930. The 3d Battalion sent patrols to the vicinity of (Q7749), the lake at (Q7848) and (Q7849). No enemy resistance was encountered by the patrols.

b. The 44th Infantry Division carried out limited objective attacks improving its positions for further attack against the MAGNOT LINE.

(1) The 1st and 2d Battalions of the 71st Infantry from their positions at (Q7352) and (Q7451), respectively, sent out assault groups during the night 13-14 December to reduce enemy pillboxes at (Q7451) and (Q7551) with no success. The 3d Battalion attacked at 0900 and seized and secured FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551) after reducing 3 pillboxes.

(2) The 1st Battalion (less Company A), 324th Infantry, moved to division reserve in the vicinity of (Q7051). Company A remained in position at (Q7253) as mobile reserve. The 3d Battalion took over positions vacated by the 1st Battalion except Company A. The 2d Battalion remained at (Q7154). All battalions maintained patrols to keep contact with and to develop the enemy positions.

(3) The 114th Infantry remained in division reserve at (Q7248).

c. The 12th Armored Division maintained contact with the 44th Infantry Division on its right and the 87th Infantry Division (XII Corps) on its left.

(1) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was forced to withdraw from a line, generally: (Q682546) - (Q689532) to a line through BETTVILLER (Q6753) and HOELING (Q6852) because of mortar and artillery fire.

(2) There were no other changes in the dispositions of the division.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 15 counterbattery missions during the period. A harassing mission was fired on an enemy troop concentration at HORNBACH (Q7365), north of the German border, and several hits were made on pillboxes by large caliber guns in an attempt to destroy them by artillery fire. Harassing missions were fired during the night on roads southwest of VOLKUNSTER (Q7258), north of BITCHE (Q7750) and on enemy command posts north and northeast of BITCHE.

e. The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Group continued to patrol on the right of the Corps front.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron sent patrols to the north of STOCKBRONN (Q809480) and to the road junction (Q8147). Other patrols reached the vicinity of EQUELSHARDT (Q4246).

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(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron drew mortar and artillery fire at (Q913459) when attempting to patrol that area. Dismounted reconnaissance was conducted north and northeast from BAINSTEIN (Q8344). The squadron outposted positions at (Q8344), (Q8448) and (Q8846). Troop C moved to PHILIPPSBOURG (Q8742) and outposted positions at (Q8846).

f. XV Corps Engineers completed a class 40 timber bridge at (Q742438). Treadway bridges were constructed at (Q6753) and (Q7153).

g. Due to poor visibility the Corps received no close air support.

h. A total of 41 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 23, the 100th Infantry Division 16, and Corps troops 2.

15. 15 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps maintained and improved positions in the Corps zone.

a. The 100th Infantry Division consolidated its positions during the period.

(1) The 2d Battalion 397th Infantry advanced at 1300, seized Hill 355 (Q797491) and reached (Q790488) without encountering the enemy. The 1st Battalion was subjected to heavy enemy artillery fire and remained in the vicinity of (Q8146). The 3d Battalion reverted to division control at 1030 near (Q790462).

(2) The 399th Infantry maintained its positions and patrolled to its front. The patrols discovered enemy locations and were fired on by small arms and machine guns in the vicinity of (Q7749), (Q7849) and (Q7749). The 1st Battalion remained in the vicinity of (Q760480), the 2d Battalion at LEMBERG (Q7445) and the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q7948).

(3) Intense enemy artillery fire forced the 1st Battalion 398th Infantry to make a limited withdrawal from exposed positions in the woods in the area of (Q752507). The 3d Battalion maintained its positions and occupied the high ground in the vicinity of (Q7549). The 2d Battalion remained in position at (Q780495).

b. Aggressive action on the part of both the enemy and the 44th Infantry Division took place during the period. Each unit probed the others defenses for indications of future operations.

(1) There was no change in the dispositions of the 71st Infantry during the period. At 0815 the enemy raided between the 2d Battalion (Q745520) and the 3d Battalion (Q738505) but was repulsed. Assault groups sent out to destroy enemy concrete fortifications in the regimental zone had little success. The 1st Battalion held its positions in the vicinity of (Q7251).

(2) Patrols of the 324th Infantry located enemy armor and positions. Little activity occurred in the sector until late afternoon when the enemy made three moderately heavy counterattacks which were repulsed. All three battalions maintained their positions; the 1st in the vicinity of (Q7052), the 2d in the vicinity of (Q7053) and the 3d in the vicinity of (Q710535).

(3) The 114th Infantry (Q7248) remained in division reserve.

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c. Dispositions of the 12th Armored Division remained unchanged; CCA in the area: BETTVILLER (Q6753) - GUIRING (Q6552), CCB in the vicinity of BINING (Q6549) and SINGLING (Q4962) and CCR in ROHRBACH (Q4965). The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to screen the front of the division with no contact with the enemy.

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d. XV Corps Artillery fired 8 counterbattery missions and 40 observed mission on enemy tanks, strong points and personnel. The heavy battalions concentrated on located fortifications of the MAGINOT LINE. Prepared harassing and roadrunner missions were fired northwest of BITCHE (Q7750) during the night.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group patrolled in its zone maintaining contact with the enemy along the group front.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron conducted dismounted patrols which drew small arms fire in the EGUELSHARDT (Q8248) area.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled along the DARBACH (Q9245) - NEUNHOFFEN (Q9147) road where it was in contact with the enemy over its entire length receiving small arms and machine gun fire frequently.

f. XV Corps Engineers cleared three minefields and eight roadblocks and destroyed approximately 119 mines.

g. Adverse weather conditions made close air support impracticable.

h. A total of 43 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 21, the 100th Infantry Division 19, the 12th Armored Division 2, and Corps troops 1.

16. 16 DECEMBER 1944:

The 100th and 44th Infantry Divisions of XV Corps continued aggressive action to destroy various fortifications of the MAGINOT LINE in the Corps zone. On this date, the plans for the relief of the 12th Armored Division in position, at 1200, 17 December, by the 80th Infantry Division (XII Corps) were published in Operations Instructions 65, XV Corps. This relief returned to XII Corps (3d Army) a sector of the XII Corps front held by XV Corps since 7 December, when the 12th Armored Division had relieved the 4th Armored Division to permit the latter division to withdraw for rest and reorganization. On 16 December the Germans launched a counteroffensive with 17 divisions on the Belgium - Luxembourg front.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued limited attacks to secure favorable positions for more extensive operations against the BITCHE (Q7750) fortifications.

(1) The 1st Battalion 397th Infantry advanced at 0730 and occupied Hill 355 (Q8048) without encountering resistance. The hill was secured and the positions consolidated by the end of the day. At 1400 after an artillery preparation, the 2d Battalion attacked against light resistance and captured Hill 35 (Q7949). The 3d Battalion (Q790462) remained in division reserve.

(2) The 3d Battalion 399th Infantry advanced and secured positions along the edge of the woods east of LIEBERG (Q7445) - BITCHE (Q7750) road. The 1st

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Battalion (Q760480) and the 2d Battalion (Q7445) continued active patrolling and found the enemy very alert.

(3) The 1st (Q752508) and the 2d (Q780496) Battalions 398th Infantry remained in position and prepared for their assault on the MAGNIOT fortifications and BITCHE. The 3d Battalion occupied the high ground in the vicinity of (Q7549) against slight opposition.

b. The 44th Infantry Division improved its positions to facilitate its planned attack on FORT SIMSERHOFF.

(1) All efforts of the 71st Infantry were directed towards securing positions for direct fire on FORT SIMSERHOFF and little change resulted in the relative locations of the units of the regiment. The 1st Battalion remained in the area (Q7251), the 2d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q7452) and the 3d Battalion near (Q7351).

(2) Tank counterattacks were repulsed on four occasions by the 3d Battalion (Q710535) 324th Infantry. Patrolling was carried out by all units of the regiment. No change in relative positions occurred, the 1st Battalion remaining in the vicinity of (Q7052) and the 2d Battalion near (Q7053).

(3) The 114th Infantry continued to protect the division rear and to conduct training. The 3d Battalion was located at LAIBACH (Q7249) and the 1st and 2d Battalions at ENCHENBERG (Q7146).

c. All units of the 12th Armored Division were alerted for movement to assembly areas in the vicinity of RAHLING (Q6243) and BUEBACH (Q5433). The division retained the responsibility for protecting the XV Corps left flank until further orders. The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to screen the front of the division along the line (Q650535) - (Q670530) - HOELLING (Q6853).

(1) CCA moved from the vicinity of BINING BARRACKS (Q6549) at 0845 and closed in assembly area in the vicinity of WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131) at 1715. Task Force "5" composed of elements of CCA remained in position to screen the relief of the division.

(2) CCR moved from the vicinity of BINING BARRACKS (Q6549) at 0845 and closed in assembly area in the vicinity of EYWILLER (Q5530) at 0950.

(3) CCB remained in the area east of BINING in the vicinity of (Q643493)

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 7 counterbattery and 51 observed missions. Of the latter, 24 were destructive missions against forts and pillboxes. Prepared harassing and roadrunner missions were fired in the area: HORNBACH (Q7365) - VOLLMUNSTER (Q7258) - BITCHE (Q7750).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to patrol in its zone.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled in the vicinity of STOCKBRONN (Q8048) and EGUELSHARDT (Q8245).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron sent patrols to the vicinity of NEUNHOFER (Q9146), road junction (Q882464) and PHILLIPSBOURG (Q8742)

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f. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 2-way Class 40 bridge, a 1-way Class 70 bridge and a 15 foot fixed timber bridge at (Q7150). One 1-way treadway bridge had to be replaced at (Q696365).

g. Five flights of 50 sorties were flown over the XV Corps zone by the XII Tactical Air Force: enemy fortifications were bombed and strafed in the 100th Infantry Division and the 44th Infantry Division sectors. Twelve aircraft bombed secondary targets at LANDAU (Q2766) because of poor visibility over primary targets.

h. A total of 72 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 100th Infantry Division captured 47, the 44th Infantry Division 7, the 12th Armored Division 6, and Corps troops 12.

17. 17 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued its efforts to reduce the fortifications in the BITCHE (Q7750) sector of the MAGINOT LINE.

a. The 100th Infantry Division attacked the defenses immediately surrounding BITCHE.

(1) The 1st and 2d Battalions supported the attack of the 398th Infantry with diversionary fire at 1130 in the vicinity of CAMP de BITCHE (Q8150). The 3d Battalion 397th Infantry remained in division reserve (Q790462).

(2) At daylight, the 3d Battalion 398th Infantry cleared the woods in the vicinity of (Q7849). Elements of the 1st Battalion cleared the enemy from COLLEGE de BITCHE (Q7749) and other elements of the battalion advanced to (Q775492) and to (Q775493). The 2d Battalion remained in the vicinity of LEBERG (Q7445) in reserve. These operations of the 398th Infantry were carried on in the face of only moderate resistance from the enemy.

(3) Artillery fire, bombing, strafing and direct fire from tanks prepared the way for the 3d Battalion 399th Infantry which attacked and captured FORT FREUDENBERG (Q753512) and Units No. 10 and 11 of the FORT SCHLESSECK Group (Q7651). At the end of the period elements of the 3d Battalion occupied positions at (Q760512), (Q757513) and (Q757508). The 1st (Q765483) and 2d (Q743457) Battalions protected the regimental left and right flanks respectively.

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued its operations for the capture of FORT SIMSERHOFF (Q7352).

(1) The 2d Battalion 71st Infantry attacked Unit No. 9 of FORT SIMSERHOFF neutralizing the defenses of the personnel entrances. Opposition was moderate and consisted principally of automatic weapons fire. The 1st and 3d Battalions conducted reconnaissance and perfected plans for the assault of the fort on 18 December.

(2) The 114th Infantry moved from division reserve in the vicinity of ENCHENBERG (Q7176) and relieved the 324th Infantry in position (Q7153). The 114th Infantry began preparations for an attack to the north on 19 December.

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(3) The 324th Infantry ~~moved to division reserve in the vicinity of~~
LAMBACH (Q7248) and ENCHENBERG (Q7176).

c. The 12th Armored Division continued its withdrawal from the lines where it was in the process of being relieved by the 80th Infantry Division (XII Corps) in accordance with Operations Instructions 66, dated 16 December.

(1) OCB (less Task Force "5"), moved from the vicinity of ROHRBACH (6549) to a bivouac area in the vicinity of PISDORF (Q5133), BURBACH (Q5433) and THAL (Q6634).

(2) Task Force "5" (Troop "A", 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached) remained in the vicinity of BETTVILLER (Q6753) and covered the relief of the division by the 80th Infantry Division.

(3) The 92d Reconnaissance Squadron (less Troop "A") moved from its positions east of GUIISING (Q6652) and closed in a bivouac area in the vicinity of (Q6441) by 1315.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 11 counterbattery and 62 observed missions during the period. Eight inch guns fired 26 rounds on the railroad yards in PIRMASENS (Q9067) and scored 9 hits. An extensive roadrunner program was carried out during the night on roads in the area of BITCHE (Q7750) - VOLKUNSTER (Q7258).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued on its mission of covering the Corps right flank and maintaining contact with the VI Corps.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled in the STOCKBROM (Q8147) - EGUELSHARDT (Q8246) area.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled in the vicinity of WALDECK (Q8446) and NEUNHOFFEN (Q9146). It found the enemy alert and prepared to resist any advance in that direction.

f. XV Corps Engineers constructed two treadway bridges at (Q714533) and (Q617415), replaced a Bailey Bridge with a Class 70 steel stringer bridge at (Q696363) and removed mines from various places in the Corps zone.

g. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with 136 sorties. 24 planes bombed and strafed an enemy command post at (Q943542) with unobserved results. Thirty-two 1000 pound bombs were dropped on a dam at (Q837679). Seven direct hits were reported, but no actual breaks were observed. The same planes strafed PIRMASENS (Q9066). In direct support of the 100th Infantry Division, FORT FREUDENBERG (Q7551) and FORT OTTERBIELE (Q7581) were bombed and strafed. FORT SIMSERHOFF (Q7352) was bombed in direct support of the 44th Infantry Division.

h. A total of 13 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 100th Infantry Division captured 8, the 44th Infantry Division 4, and Corps troops 1.

18. 18 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued its attacks against the forts of the MAGINOT LINE in the Corps zone. Operations Instructions 66, XV Corps, dated 2200, 18 December direct-

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ed the 12th Armored Division, which was in the process of being relieved by the 80th Infantry Division, to reoccupy its sector and to relieve the elements of the 80th Infantry Division (XII Corps) in the line without delay, the relief to be completed by darkness 19 December. The 80th Infantry Division was alerted for prompt movement to the METZ area to assist in repelling the German attack on the front of the First and Third Armies then in progress.

a. The 100th Infantry Division began its attack on various forts of the BITCHE (Q7750) defenses.

(1) The 1st (Q807487) and 2d (Q797491) Battalions 397th Infantry maintained active patrols to the north and northeast. The 2d Battalion cleared the enemy from the vicinity of (Q8049), outposted the area and returned to its former positions. The 3d Battalion remained in division reserve at (Q7946).

(2) The left flank of the division was protected by the 1st Battalion (Q777492) 398th Infantry. The 2d Battalion remained in position in the vicinity of LEMBERG (Q7445). The 3d Battalion secured FORT FREUDENBERG (Q7551), Units No. 10 and 11 of the FORT SCHIESSECK Group (Q7651) and continued the attack at 0930 to capture Units No. 1, 7, 8, 5, 6, 4, 3, and 9. The advance was heavily opposed by artillery, mortar, small arms and automatic weapons fire from the entrenched enemy. The end of the period found the 3d Battalion in possession of FORT SCHIESSECK except for Unit No. 2.

(3) All battalions of the 398th Infantry, the 1st in the vicinity of (Q765483), the 2d at (Q743457) and the 3d at (Q758513) held and improved their positions and patrolled south of BITCHE (Q7750).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued its attacks to reduce FORT SIMSERHOFF (Q7352) of the MAGNOT system.

(1) The 2d and 3d Battalion 71st Infantry proceeded with the attack at 1000 against considerable small arms resistance. The 3d Battalion seized FORT FREUDENBERG OP by 1500 and found it unoccupied, then proceeded to the vicinity of (Q7451). The 2d Battalion reduced several fortified positions of the FORT SIMSERHOFF Group and sealed them against reoccupation. At the end of the period the 2d Battalion was at (Q738512). The 1st Battalion (Q727516) reconnoitered Units No. 7 and 8 of the SIMSERHOFF Group and continued preparations for further attacks.

(2) No change was made in the disposition of the 114th Infantry. The 1st Battalion held its positions in the area of (Q6852), the 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q7053) and the 3d Battalion was at (Q7052). Contact with the 80th Infantry Division was maintained and preparations made for an attack on the 19th.

(3) The 324th Infantry remained in division reserve in the vicinity of ENCHENBERG (Q4146) and LAIBACH (Q7249).

c. The 12th Armored Division, which had been relieved by elements of the 80th Infantry Division, continued the operations of its elements as follows:

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(1) CCA and CCR remained in the division assembly area north and north-west of DRULINGEN (Q6030).

(2) CCB (less the 56th Armored Infantry Battalion and Task Force "5") closed in the vicinity of BUTTEN (Q6241).

(3) Task Force "5" moved from the vicinity of BETTVILLER (Q6752) and closed in an area near (Q678445) at 1530.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 26 counterbattery and 39 observed missions on pillboxes and forts. The results of the fire upon the forts was confirmed as being from effective to relatively ineffective. Prepared roadrunner and harassing fires were fired in the area from BITCHE (Q7750) to VOLLUNSTER (Q7258).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained contact with the 100th Infantry Division on the left and the 45th Infantry Division (VI Corps) on the right.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled in the STOCKBRON (Q8147) - EGUELSHARDT (Q8246) - WALDECK (Q8446) - NEUNHOFFEN (Q9146) area. Small groups of enemy were observed at (Q810478), (Q817473), (Q888468).

(2) Dismounted patrols of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron ascertained that the enemy occupied positions at (Q860463), (Q865476), and (Q913471).

f. XV Corps Engineers replaced a Class 40 Bailey Bridge at (Q696363) with a two-way Class 40 steel stringer timber bridge.

g. The XII Tactical Air Force flew 60 sorties of five flights in the Corps zone but because of poor visibility only one flight was flown in close support of XV Corps units. In the 44th Infantry Division sector planes bombed and strafed NOUSSEVILLER (Q7355) destroying and burning houses, silencing anti-aircraft guns near the town and then proceeded to PIRLASENS (Q9066) where they strafed motor and rail transport.

h. A total of 61 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps area during the period: Corps troops captured 8, the 44th Infantry Division 24, and the 100th Infantry Division 29.

19. 19 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued its determined efforts to reduce the enemy fortifications in its zone.

a. The 100th Infantry Division advanced against the enemy forts dominating BITCHE (Q7750).

(1) The 3d Battalion 397th Infantry relieved the 1st Battalion in position at (Q7048); upon completion of the relief the 1st Battalion moved to division reserve near (Q7947). There was no change in the disposition of the 2d Battalion which remained in the vicinity of (Q7949). Patrols were sent out to the north and northeast to maintain contact with the enemy.

(2) The 399th Infantry throughout the period was subjected to intermittent artillery fire. The 1st Battalion in the vicinity of (Q7648), the 2d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q7445) and the 3d Battalion near (Q7551) improved their positions.

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(3) The 398th Infantry met determined enemy resistance when the defenses of FORT SCHLESSECK were reached. The 3d Battalion had captured Unit No. 3 the previous day but withdrew from direct line of fire while Unit No. 2 was shelled by our artillery. While this shelling was in progress the enemy reoccupied Unit No. 3 which had to be recaptured before the battalion could surround Unit No. 2. The enemy maintained a determined defense employing heavy artillery and mortar fire. No further advance was made a moderately heavy counterattack was repulsed late in the afternoon. The 2d Battalion advanced against artillery, mortar and automatic weapons fire to capture the high ground west of FORT SCHLESSECK (Q7651). Positions at (Q756522), (Q757519) and (Q757513) were secured by the end of the period. The 1st Battalion at (Q777492) protected the regimental flank.

b. The 44th Infantry Division captured the town of HOTTVILLER (Q7253).

(1) The 3d Battalion 71st Infantry reached (Q750530) after attacking with the 1st Battalion to capture the remaining units of FORT SIMSBERG (Q7352) in the face of light small arms and heavy mortar fire. The 1st Battalion continued its advance and reached (Q741532) by the end of the period. The 2d Battalion (Q738512) assisted by fire, the 1st and 3d Battalions in their capture of the fort.

(2) The 2d and 3d Battalions 114th Infantry attacked at 0715 against small arms and artillery fire. The 3d Battalion seized HOTTVILLER (Q7253) and the high ground west of the town repulsing an enemy counterattack from the north at 1600. The 2d Battalion reached the vicinity of (Q7255) by the end of the period. The 1st Battalion moved to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of (Q704528).

(3) The 324th Infantry remained in division reserve in the vicinity of ENCHENBERG (Q7146) and LAIBACH (Q7249).

c. Elements of the 12th Armored Division relieved elements of the 80th Infantry Division (XII Corps) and the 25th Cavalry Squadron while the remainder of the Division remained in position. The 80th Infantry Division commenced its movement to the north to participate in the defense against the German attack then in progress northeast of METZ.

(1) CCB relieved elements of the 80th Infantry Division and the 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron along the line (Q718570) - EPPING-URBACH (Q6957) - (Q666580).

(2) CCA remained in the vicinity of WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131).

(3) CCR remained in the vicinity of EYVILLER (Q5530).

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 20 counterbattery missions. Harassing and road-runner missions were fired in the vicinity of SCHORBACH (Q7653) and BREIDENBACH (Q7759).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued patrolling in the VOSGES.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron conducted dismounted patrolling in the STOCKBRONN (Q8117) - BOULSHEIM (Q8246) area.

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(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued dismounted patrolling in the direction of NEUNHOFEN (Q9146) and WALDECK (Q8446).

f. XV Corps Engineers cleared minefields at (Q798322) and (Q776492). A Bailey bridge at (Q763349) was replaced by a two-way Class 40 steel stringer bridge.

g. XII Tactical Air Force flew 81 sorties in the Corps area but no close support was possible because of poor visibility. Instead, the Air Force concentrated on road and rail communications in the vicinity of ZWELBRUCKEN (Q7373), HOMBERG (Q7181), NEUKIRCHEN (Q8083) and OTTWEILER (Q5989).

h. A total of 32 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 22, the 100th Infantry Division 9, and 1 by the 12th Armored Division.

20. 20 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued its attack on the MAGINOT LINE and during the period captured the remaining unit of FORT SCHIESSECK. By 20 December the German counter-offensive on the Belgium - LUXEMBOURG front had penetrated to a maximum depth of 35 miles on a 60 mile front. To meet this German thrust SHAEF directed the movement of certain divisions on the right of the Third Army to the critical area to the north. These movements made necessary a number of changes in the dispositions of XV Corps. Operations Instructions 67, XV Corps, dated 20 December announced the shifting of the boundary of XV Corps to the west to include the 87th Infantry Division, which was attached to the XV Corps position, in accordance with an oral agreement between Commanding General Third Army and Commanding General Seventh Army. The instructions further directed the 87th Infantry Division to relieve elements of the 35th Infantry Division within new boundaries by 1200 21 December. Operations Instructions 68, XV Corps, dated 20 December 1944, announced the Corps' responsibility for the sector occupied by the 35th Infantry Division. The instructions assigned a new sector to the 44th Infantry Division, requiring its relief and displacement to an area just east of SAREGUEMINES (Q5157), inclusive. It directed also that the 44th Infantry Division complete the relief of elements of the 35th Infantry Division and 2d Cavalry Group within new sector prior to 2359 22 December. Operations Instruction 69, XV Corps, issued later in the day, directed the 100th Infantry Division to complete the relief of the 44th Infantry Division in present positions prior to 1400 22 December. The same instructions directed the 106th Cavalry Group to complete the relief of the front line elements of the 100th Infantry Division by 2359 21 December. The 35th and 80th Infantry Division made preparations to move north upon their relief by units of XV Corps. The result of the adjustments made necessary by the movement of Third Army units was to double the front of XV Corps, extending the three divisions of the Corps, all then in contact with an aggressive and determined enemy, to take over the entire front of XII Corps - a most difficult maneuver. This mission was accomplished within four days, with the result that three infantry divisions, an armored division, and a reinforced cavalry group were released by the action of XV Corps for employment in the critical battle against the German counteroffensive.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its pressure against the enemy defenses around the town of BITCHE.

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(1) The 397th Infantry maintained its positions and sent out patrols to the north and northeast. The battalions were located as follows: 1st Battalion at (Q793470), the 2d Battalion at (Q797491) and the 3d Battalion at (Q707487).

(2) Only local adjustments were made in the positions of the 399th Infantry which received artillery fire in its zone during the entire period. The 3d Battalion seized Hill 365 (Q7748) and later moved on to (Q757497). The 1st Battalion withdrew elements from COLLEGE de BITCHE (Q7749) to the vicinity of (Q7549). The 2d Battalion remained in the area of Q7445).

(3) The 398th Infantry attacked at 1015 against sporadic small arms and heavy artillery fire. The 1st Battalion reached (Q770521), the 2d Battalion the high ground near (Q765524) and (Q758518). The 3d Battalion seized Unit No. 2 of FORT SCHIESSECK (Q7651).

b. The 44th Infantry Division sector was quiet except for patrolling. Gains were consolidated but there was no change in the disposition of the units.

(1) Patrols of the 71st Infantry encountered small arms fire from the enemy near SHORBACH (Q7753). The 1st Battalion remained near (Q7453), the 2d Battalion continued sealing exits of FORT SIMSERHOF (Q735520). The 3d Battalion remained in the vicinity of (Q7553).

(2) The 114th Infantry maintained its positions and sent out patrols to keep contact with the enemy. The 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of HOTTVILLER (Q7253), the 2d Battalion near (Q7255) and the 1st Battalion at (Q7052).

(3) The 324th Infantry remained in division reserve in the vicinity of ENCHENBERG (Q7146) and LAMBACH (Q7249).

c. The 12th Armored Division, except for CCB, moved to forward assembly areas, completing the relief of the 80th Infantry Division which was moving to participate in the battle against the German attack against the First and Third Armies.

(1) CCB received some artillery and mortar fire in the vicinity of (Q718570) - UREACH (Q6957) - (Q666580). Contact with adjacent units was maintained.

(2) CCR moved from EYWILLER (Q5530) to the vicinity of BINING BARRACKS (Q6448) closing at 1415.

(3) CCA moved from the vicinity of WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131) to an assembly area in the vicinity of SINGLING (Q6249), closing by 1250.

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to patrol the division front.

d. The 87th Infantry Division passed to the command of IV Corps at 2100, 20 December. The division made preparations to relieve the 320th Infantry of the 35th Infantry Division in position.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to patrol to the north and northeast, receiving moderately heavy mortar fire during the period. Contact was maintained with the 45th Infantry Division on the right.

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(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled in the vicinity of STOCKBRONN (Q8147) and EHUELSHARDT (Q8246) and found both towns occupied by the enemy. Enemy patrols were seen at (Q808478) and (Q837473).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued dismounted patrolling in the vicinity of WALDECK (Q8446), road junction (Q882478) and NEUNHOFEN (Q9146). The enemy was observed at (Q882476) and (Q855470).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 19 counterbattery missions during the period. Prepared harassing and roadrunner missions were fired in the area north and north-west of BITCHE (Q7750).

g. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps sector.

h. Adverse operating conditions made close air support by the XII Tactical Air Force impracticable. Only two reconnaissance sorties were flown.

i. A total of 41 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 7 and the 100th Infantry Division 34.

21. 21 DECEMBER 1944:

The emergency created created in the north by the enemy breakthrough in Luxembourg and Belgium caused a diversion of troops from the southern front, and made it necessary for the troops remaining in this sector to cover a larger front and to discontinue the offensive and assume the defensive.

Seventh Army took over that portion of the front formerly occupied by XII Corps of Third Army, permitting the movement of XII Corps to the battle area in Luxembourg. The Commanding General Seventh Army on 21 December issued verbal orders for Seventh Army to assume the defensive. The following defensive principles were stressed, including adjustments to be made in completing the transition from the offense to the defense:

Defend in present positions.

Wire in, dig in, mine.

Relinquish ground only to prevent the integrity of the troops becoming compromised.

Prepare for the relief of elements of Third Army remaining within the new sector of Seventh Army created by the change in boundaries.

Seventh Army Field Order 8, dated 2000, 21 December, confirmed the above instructions. On this date Army estimated that elements of enemy divisions about 20 battalions of infantry plus 60 tanks and self-propelled guns, opposed the Seventh Army.

XV Corps was directed by Field Order 8 to relieve the 35th Infantry Division by 22 December (confirming previous oral instructions) and to relieve the 6th Armored Division and Task Force FICKETT by 1800, 24 December.

XV Corps Artillery displaced one group, consisting of three battalions, to the sector taken over from XII Corps. Displacement of these units commenced at daylight with units in new fire positions by 1200. During this period XII Corps Artillery units were being withdrawn for movement to the north, yet the complete

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change of artillery units was effected without disruption of artillery support. Three battalions of artillery were relieved from attachment to XII Corps and Third Army and were attached to Seventh Army and XV Corps. These battalions were taken over in position by XV Corps Artillery. ~~DECLASSIFIED~~

The 87th Infantry Division which had been attached to XII Corps and Third Army, was on 21 December, (confirming previous oral instructions), attached to Seventh Army and XV Corps. The 103d Infantry Division was shifted from the VI Corps front to the XV Corps front on instructions contained in Seventh Army Movement Order, dated 21 December, and was attached to XV Corps. As a result of its change in mission, XV Corps was forced by the situation to discontinue the offensive on a 32 kilometer front in which 2 infantry divisions and one armored division were attacking supported by 9 battalions of Corps artillery and assume the defensive on a 75 kilometer front with 4 divisions of infantry and one armored division supported by 13 battalions of Corps artillery. (This new front had previously been supported by 38 battalions of Corps and division artillery). XV Corps readjusted divisional boundaries in order to utilize to the greatest advantage the troops available for operations in the sector.

This change of mission for the Corps was completed, as described in subsequent days activities with the minimum of confusion and with extraordinary speed on the following schedule: (See "Diagramatic Explanation", Inclosure No. 1)

XV Corps Artillery relieved XII Corps Artillery and assumed the artillery mission in the new sector within a 24 hour period.

The complete transition and change-over from the offensive on a 32 kilometer front to the defensive on a 75 kilometer front was accomplished in 4 days. This action involved the complete relief of XII Corps units; the 100th and the 87th Infantry Divisions expanding to the right and left, respectively, in their mission of relieving front line units of the 44th Infantry Division. The 44th Infantry Division withdrew from the line and shifted to a sector more than 20 kilometers to the west. During the time that changes in the dispositions of the divisions were taking place Corps troops also were shifted to better supporting positions. ✓

These changes were accomplished through meticulous and painstaking planning by the staffs of divisions and of XV Corps. Traffic control and staff coordination operated in a manner which at all times insured an efficient and expeditious transition.

On 24 December the Commanding General Sixth Army Group visited the Corps and in the presence of the assembled staff stated that the XV Corps had met every expectation and had even succeeded in accomplishing its difficult mission ahead of schedule.

The new boundary between VI Corps and XV Corps as directed by Field Order 8 Seventh Army was as follows: DANNE et QUATRE VENTS (Q6818), WIELEMAU (Q7445), BITCHE (Q7850), WALSCHBRONN (Q8161) and PIRMASENS (Q9066) all to XV Corps. The boundary between XV Corps and XX Corps was prescribed as follows: DOMBASLE CHATEAU SALINS, BARONSVILLE, FAULQUEMONT, ST AVOLD, CARLING, BUSS (all to XX Corps), NEUNKIRCHEN, LANDSTUHL, KAISERLAUTERN (all to XV Corps).

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Operations Instructions 71 XV Corps, dated 21 December 1944 directed that all divisions reconnoiter to find the best possible terrain for defense and take all steps necessary to insure maximum defense. XV Corps readjusted divisional boundaries in order to utilize to the greatest advantage the troops available for the defense of the sector.

a. The 100th Infantry Division preceded with the relief of the 44th Infantry Division in position. The 100th Infantry Division was, in turn, being relieved by elements of the 106th Cavalry Group (per Operations Instructions 69, XV Corps, dated 20 December 1944).

(1) The 397th Infantry was relieved by elements of the 106th Cavalry Group by 1100. The 1st Battalion 397th Infantry moved from the vicinity of MOUTERHOUSE (Q7645) to PETIT REDERCHING (Q6651) and relieved the 2d Battalion 114th Infantry 44th Infantry Division. The 2d Battalion 397th Infantry moved northwest at 1615, closing in PETIT REDERCHING by 1800, where it relieved the 1st Battalion 114th Infantry. The 3d Battalion 397th Infantry relieved the 3d Battalion 114th Infantry at 1945 in position at (Q722540).

(2) The 399th Infantry kept the 1st Battalion (Q757498) and the 2d Battalion (Q743457) in position. The 3d Battalion was relieved at 1710 by Troop "C", 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and moved to the vicinity of IELBACH (Q7248).

(3) The 3d Battalion 398th Infantry was subjected to heavy artillery, mortar and automatic weapons fire while following up the neutralization of FORT SCHIESSECK (Q760515) by the 325th Engineers. Upon the successful completion of this operation, the 3d Battalion moved to an area in the vicinity of (Q7550) preparatory to relieving the 71st Infantry 44th Infantry Division. The 1st Battalion 398th Infantry readjusted its positions, securing the high ground north of FORT SCHIESSECK in the vicinity of FORT FREUDENBERG (Q7551). The 2d Battalion, though subjected to heavy artillery, mortar, bazooka and automatic weapons fire throughout the day and night, moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Q7350).

b. The 44th Infantry Division made local changes in unit position without incident or opposition.

(1) The 114th Infantry moved to HAIERHOFF (Q6850) after being relieved by the 397th Infantry, 100th Infantry Division.

(2) The 2d Battalion 71st Infantry completed sealing the elevator shaft of FORT SEISERHOFF (Q7352) while the 3d Battalion withdrew to defense lines as selected by the 100th Infantry Division at (Q740514) until the 100th Infantry Division's units, who were in turn being relieved, could relieve the 3d Battalion 71st Infantry. The 1st Battalion remained at (Q740535).

(3) The 324th Infantry moved to the sector (Q570605) occupied by the 137th Infantry, 35th Infantry Division.

c. The 87th Infantry Division rotated units and took over part of the 35th Infantry Division sector.

(1) The 345th Infantry improved positions and conducted patrolling to the north and east. The 1st Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q6461), the 2d Battalion at (Q6659) and the 3d Battalion at (Q6558).

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(2) Elements of the 1st Battalion 347th Infantry relieved elements of the 320th Infantry (Q635505), 35th Infantry Division. The 2d and 3d Battalions 347th Infantry relieved elements of the 320th Infantry at (Q645624) and (Q631619) respectively.

(3) The 346th Infantry moved at 0405 to relieve elements of the 320th Infantry, 35th Infantry Division, completing the relief at 1730 in the vicinity of (Q620630).

d. After relief by elements of the 45th Infantry Division (VI Corps), the 103d Infantry Division commenced movement to the vicinity of FRANKLITOFF (Q3140).

e. The 12th Armored Division conducted limited objective attacks to straighten the Corps front line within its sector.

(1) CCB attacked at 0415 and seized the high ground in the vicinity of (Q6758), (Q6858) and (Q6750) and at 0500 occupied ground in the vicinity of (Q6750) which it held until 0915 when the combat command was relieved by the 56th Armored Infantry Battalion. At 1630 the attack was continued to seize UTWEILER (Q6858) which was occupied by 1830.

(2) CCA was alerted but remained in reserve in the vicinity of SINGLING (Q6249).

(3) CCR remained in the vicinity of BINING BARRACKS (Q6448).

f. The 106th Cavalry Group received an attack on its right flank which caused it to make a slight withdrawal. Outposts and patrols were maintained.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to patrol the STOCKBRONN (Q8147) area. Troop "B" relieved elements of the 397th Infantry 100th Infantry Division in the vicinity of (Q795478). Troop "C" relieved elements of the 399th Infantry, 100th Infantry Division at REYERSVILLER (Q7549).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled aggressively and maintained outposts. In the vicinity of (Q8846) an enemy force estimated at 75 men, attacked and caused a withdrawal of about 75 yards.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 7 counterbattery missions during the period. Prepared roadrunner and harassing missions were fired in the area: BITCHE (Q7750) - HORNBAACH (Q7350) and in the area north of SARREGUEMINES (Q5157).

h. XV Corps Engineers removed mines, maintained roads in the Corps area and assisted in the neutralization of pillboxes and blockhouses of the FORT SCHIESSECK Group.

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 24 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. Twelve planes bombed ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7272) marshalling yards.

j. A total of 294 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: The 12th Armored Division captured 55, the 100th Infantry Division 4, the 44th Infantry Division 4 and the 87th Infantry Division 231.

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22. 22 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued the deployment of units and the improvement of defensive positions.

a. The 100th Infantry Division reorganized its newly expanded sector and organized its front for defense.

(1) The 1st Battalion 399th Infantry took up defensive positions to cover the line: (Q749513) - (Q776491). The 2d Battalion moved from division reserve during the daylight hours to positions along the KREUTZBERG (Q7748) ridge and to other positions to protect the MOUTENHOUSE (Q7942) - LELBERG (Q7344) road. The 3d Battalion reverted to division reserve at 2030 upon its arrival on the high ground northeast of LAMBACH (Q7248).

(2) The 398th Infantry completed the movement to new positions at 1100. The 1st Battalion, though subjected to heavy mortar and artillery fire during the day, remained in position in the FORT SCHLESSE K (Q7551) area overlooking BITCHE. The 2d Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion 71st Infantry, 44th Infantry Division at (Q724528) and the 3d Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion 71st Infantry at (Q737512).

(3) The 397th Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions by making local minor shifts. The 1st Battalion remained at (Q718533), the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q7355) and the 2d Battalion in division reserve at (Q6953).

b. The 87th Infantry Division maintained its positions and improved its defenses.

(1) The 1st Battalion 347th Infantry relieved the 3d Battalion in position in the vicinity of (Q6361). The 2d Battalion, when relieved by the 2d Battalion 346th Infantry, moved to the vicinity of (Q6260). The 3d Battalion remained in the vicinity of (Q6463).

(2) The 3d Battalion 346th Infantry relieved the 2d Battalion in position at (Q605630) and the 2d Battalion relieved the 2d Battalion 347th Infantry in position at (Q615633). The 1st Battalion was located in the area of (Q6264).

(3) The 345th Infantry improved and consolidated its positions. The 1st Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q6561), the 3d Battalion near (Q6559) and the 2d Battalion in regimental reserve near (Q6459).

c. The 44th Infantry Division completed the relief of elements of the 35th Infantry Division at 1530 at which time the Commanding General 44th Infantry Division assumed command of the sector. A minor attack by the enemy during the afternoon was successfully beaten off.

(1) The 3d Battalion 324th Infantry was attacked from the northeast at 1129 after one hours artillery preparation by approximately 100 enemy supported by tanks. A portion of the 3d Battalion position was overrun but a counterattack by the 1st Battalion (Q565595) supported by tanks restored the lines of the 3d Battalion (Q563623). The 2d Battalion remained in position on the right of the regimental sector (Q590613).

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(2) The 114th Infantry moved from an assembly area in the vicinity of MAISERHOFF (Q6850) and completed the relief of elements of the 2d Cavalry Group (XII Corps) at 1400. Positions were occupied along the line: (Q50057) - (Q565588) with the 3d Battalion on the left and the 1st Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion in regimental reserve moved to the vicinity of (Q5456).

(3) After being relieved at 1100 by elements of the 398th Infantry (100th Infantry Division) at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), the 71st Infantry moved to division reserve in the vicinity of SARRIENSBERG (Q5554).

d. Relief of elements of the 103d Infantry Division by elements of the 45th Infantry Division was begun during the day.

(1) The 410th Infantry, less the 3d Battalion, with the 1st Battalion 411th Infantry attached, closed at 1200 in an assembly area in the vicinity of MAXTADT (Q3149).

(2) The 411th Infantry, less the 1st Battalion, with the 3d Battalion 410th Infantry attached, was relieved by elements of the 179th and 180th Infantry of the 45th Infantry Division. The 411th Infantry then moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of GROS-TENQUIN (Q2743).

(3) The 409th Infantry was relieved by elements of the 179th Infantry and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of HELLER (Q5344).

e. The 12th Armored Division maintained its positions making only minor changes in the dispositions of units.

(1) OCB maintained its positions in the vicinity of (Q6859) - (Q6958) - (Q7056).

(2) OCR moved from the vicinity of (Q6344) to the vicinity of ROHBACH (Q6549) closing at 1450.

(3) OCA remained in positions in the vicinity of SINGLING (Q6250) on a three hour alert status.

f. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained its positions and patrolled along its front from (Q780685) to (Q899620).

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued patrolling the STOCKBRONN (Q8147) area.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reported that the enemy which had attacked the outpost near (Q8946) had withdrawn to the north. Patrolling in the sector was continued.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired harassing missions during the night in the sectors of the 87th Infantry Division and the 44th Infantry Division and the 12th Armored Division. Prepared harassing missions were executed in the vicinity of SCHORBACH (Q7653) and VOLLMUNSTER (Q5155).

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h. XV Corps Engineers cleared ~~UTWILLER~~ (Q6753) of mines and booby traps. A treadway bridge at (Q6753) was replaced with a two-way culvert and 14 anti-tank road blocks were placed for the 106th Cavalry Group.

i. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish any close air support because of poor visibility.

j. A total of 312 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 87th Infantry Division captured 255, the 12th Armored Division 43, the 100th Infantry Division 4, the 44th Infantry Division 4, and the 103d Infantry Division 6.

23. 23 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued preparations for the defense of its sector. Contact with the enemy was light, maintained by reconnaissance patrols only.

By the provisions of Field Order 8, dated 21 December, Seventh Army was to halt its present offensive operations and organize to defend the ground then held. The 6th Armored Division (XX Corps) was to be prepared to counterattack from METZ in the sector of XV Corps. XII Tactical Air Force was to support the defense of XV Corps.

Based on Seventh Army instructions, Field Order 15 XV Corps, dated 1800, 23 December was published. XV Corps was to relieve the 6th Armored Division and Task Force FICKETT within the new Corps boundaries and organize to defend the ground held by the Corps with three divisions abreast and the Corps Cavalry Group on the left flank. The boundaries pertinent to XV Corps from east (R) to west (L) were as follows: between VI Corps and XV Corps (also the right boundary of the 100th Infantry Division); the general line: Q9366 - Q8261 - Q7850 - Q7544 - Q7738; between the 100th Infantry Division and the 12th Armored Division the general line: Q7972 - Q7157 - Q6448; between the 12th Armored Division and the 100th Infantry Division along the general line: Q7269 - Q6760 - Q6758 - Q6057 - Q6654 - Q6147 - Q5337 (the 12th Armored Division temporarily occupying a sector within the sector assigned to the 100th Infantry Division); between the 100th Infantry Division and the 44th Infantry Division, the general line: Q7273 - Q7070 - Q6559 - Q6147 - Q7337; between the 44th Infantry Division and the 103d Infantry Division the general line: Q5775 - Q5370 - Q4966 - Q5057 - Q4552 - Q4452 - Q4450; between the 103d Infantry Division and the 106th Cavalry Group, the general line: Q4475 - Q4068 - Q3462 - Q3152 and between XV Corps (also the left boundary of the 6th Cavalry Group) and XX Corps the general lines: Q4380 - Q3376 - Q2764 - Q2656 - Q2656 - Q185390.

The 100th Infantry Division was directed to relieve elements of the 87th Infantry Division within the new boundaries and to be prepared to relieve the 12th Armored Division in its sector after 24 December. The 100th Infantry Division was to protect the Corps right flank.

The 44th Infantry Division was ordered to relieve elements of the 87th Infantry Division within its new boundaries.

The 103d Infantry Division was instructed to relieve the 6th Armored Division within its new boundaries by 2359, 24 December 1944.

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The 106th Cavalry Group was to relieve Task Force FIOCKETT within its new boundaries by 1800, 24 December and also to protect the Corps left flank.

The 87th Infantry Division, upon relief by elements of the 100th and 44th Infantry Divisions, was instructed to move without delay to Corps reserve in an assembly area in the vicinity of DIEUZE (Q2524).

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The 12th Armored Division (less artillery) was to continue on its assigned mission but was to prepare, upon relief by elements of the 100th Infantry Division about 24 December, to move on Corps order, to Corps reserve in an area to be designated.

Operations Instructions 70 XV Corps, dated 23 December 1944 instructed the 103d Infantry Division to relieve front line elements of the 6th Armored Division as soon as possible and to defend the sector south of the SAIRE River, as close to the present main line of resistance as practicable.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued to organize the defenses within its sector. Little activity occurred on the front; the only contact with the enemy being a single fire fight between two patrols.

(1) The 399th Infantry readjusted its positions with the 1st Battalion from (Q7848) to (Q7551) on the left, the 2d Battalion near (Q7445) on the right and the 3d Battalion in regimental reserve in the vicinity of (Q7448).

(2) The 398th Infantry improved its defenses, the 2d Battalion on the left at (Q7452), the 3d Battalion on the right at (Q7551) and the 1st Battalion in regimental reserve in the vicinity of HOLBACH (Q7151). Patrolling was maintained throughout the sector to retain contact with the enemy.

(3) In the sector of the 397th Infantry, the 1st Battalion maintained its defensive positions on the left at (Q71555) and the 2d Battalion moved at 1620 to the vicinity of RILTING (Q6555) to relieve elements of the 87th Infantry Division. At this time the 3d Battalion was being relieved by elements of the 398th Infantry and was preparing to assemble in the vicinity of LEIERHOFF (Q6869).

b. The relief of the 87th Infantry Division by elements of the 44th and 100th Infantry Divisions commenced. The division started its movement to an assembly area in the vicinity of DIEUZE (Q2524) as directed in Field Order 15 XV Corps, dated 23 December.

(1) The 2d Battalion 345th Infantry moved to a new assembly area in the vicinity of DIEUZE, while the remainder of the units (1st Battalion at (Q6561) and the 3d Battalion at (Q6559)) continued preparations for relief.

(2) The 2d Battalion 346th Infantry moved to the vicinity of DIEUZE. The remainder of its units (the 1st Battalion at (Q6162) and the 3d Battalion (Q6061)) continued preparations for relief.

(3) The 2d Battalion 347th Infantry moved at 1930 to a rear area in the vicinity of DIEUZE. The 3d Battalion was moving through the 1st Battalion at (Q630602) at the end of the period.

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c. The 44th Infantry Division relocated units to make the best use of defensive features of the terrain.

(1) At 1800 the 324th Infantry withdrew slightly to take up improved positions. The 1st Battalion protected the bridge at FRAUENBERG (Q5559), the 2d Battalion took up positions at RHEINHEIM (Q5960) and the 3d Battalion withdrew southward across the BLIES River and occupied positions in the vicinity of (Q5758). The front was quiet with little contact with the enemy.

(2) The 114th Infantry improved its positions. Intermittent artillery fire was received throughout the period. The 1st Battalion was located near (Q5459) the 2d Battalion at (Q5356) and the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q5259). No contact was made with the enemy during the period.

(3) The 1st Battalion 71st Infantry occupied the main regimental defensive positions just north of WOELFLING (Q5954). The 3d Battalion was in position in the vicinity of (Q6254). The 2d Battalion, as division reserve near (Q5151), patrolled the river line through SARREGUEMINES (Q5157).

d. The 103d Infantry Division closed in FRANCALETROFF (Q3140) and prepared to relieve elements of the 6th Armored Division.

(1) The 410th Infantry moved to forward assembly areas and reconnoitered in the sector of CCR 6th Armored Division. The 1st Battalion moved to the vicinity of (Q4356), the 2d Battalion to (Q4556). The 3d Battalion remained at (Q3140).

(2) The 411th Infantry reconnoitered the sector of CCB 6th Armored Division and moved to forward assembly areas: the 1st Battalion near FAREBERSVILLER (Q3658), the 2d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q395595) and the 3d Battalion in the area of (Q3559).

(3) The 409th Infantry closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of (Q3646).

e. The 12th Armored Division maintained its positions:

(1) CCA remained at SINGLING (Q6250).

(2) CCB remained at BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(3) CCR remained at ROHRBACH (Q6549).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 11 counterbattery and 30 prepared harassing missions during the period.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group was relieved by elements of VI Corps and commenced movement to its new sector.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron moved at 0800 to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Q2765) and prepared to relieve the 28th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on 24 December.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron moved at 1330 to the vicinity of MERLEBACH (Q3361) and prepared to relieve elements of the 6th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on 24 December.

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h. XV Corps Engineers completed a 2-way Class 40 bridge at (Q79113).

i. XIII Tactical Air Force flew 47 sorties in support of XV Corps, but only 11 of these were in close support because of ~~off~~ ^{low} ~~altitude~~ ^{altitude} ~~base~~ ^{base}. Transport on roads and enemy assembly areas in front of the 100th and 44th Infantry Division sectors were bombed and strafed. The remainder, 36 sorties, were attacks flown against rail transport in the Corps area.

j. A total of 278 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 87th Infantry Division captured 235, the 100th Infantry Division 6, and the 12th Armored Division 17.

24. 24 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued to organize its sector for defense as prescribed in Field Order 15. The relief of the 87th Infantry Division by the 44th and the 100th Infantry Divisions was completed.

a. The defensive positions of the 100th Infantry Division were well on their way to completion.

(1) All units of the 399th Infantry reconnoitered in the morning to improve their positions. The 1st Battalion occupied positions from the road junction (Q7748) to the lake at (Q7848) and along the JEMBERG (Q7344) - BITCHE (Q7750) road. The 3d Battalion organized its defenses on the high ground at SPITZBERG (Q7547), SIGNALBERG (Q7448) and RUNKENKOPF (Q7646). The 2d Battalion remained in the positions held on 23 December.

(2) Upon relief by elements of the 399th Infantry, the 1st Battalion 398th Infantry moved to the vicinity of (Q7149) in regimental reserve. The 2d Battalion 398th Infantry relieved elements of the 397th Infantry in position (Q7155) at 1800. The 3d Battalion 398th Infantry relieved the remainder of the 397th Infantry in position (Q7252) at 1500.

(3) The 2d Battalion 397th Infantry relieved elements of the 87th Infantry Division in position (Q659593) - (Q666580) without incident. The 1st Battalion 397th Infantry remain in defensive positions (Q6849) while the 3d Battalion, relieved by elements of the 398th Infantry in the vicinity of NOTTVILLER (Q7253), took up defensive positions in the vicinity of RIMLING (Q6554).

b. Positions of all units in the 44th Infantry Division sector continued to be improved.

(1) The 71st Infantry improved its defensive positions with only minor adjustments. The 1st Battalion remained at WOELLING (Q5254) and the 3d Battalion at (Q6254). The 2d Battalion reverted to regimental control and moved from SARRE-GUEMINES (Q5156) to an assembly area in the vicinity of WITTING (Q5750) assuming guard of the bridges there.

(2) The 324th Infantry completed its withdrawal to a main line of Resistance south of the BLIES River giving up through a misunderstanding ground that the XV Corps had intended to hold. The 1st Battalion occupied positions at the

bridge (Q562544) and the overpass (Q5457). The 2d Battalion withdrew its shell across the BLIES River and occupied positions in the vicinity of (Q5658) - (Q5857). The 3d Battalion withdrew south of the BLIES River and blew the bridge at FRAUENBERG (Q5559). Outposts were driven back across the river by enemy tank and machine gun fire.

(3) The 114th Infantry relieved elements of the 2d Battalion 71st Infantry in the vicinity of SAREQUEMINES and adjusted dispositions to conform with the regimental boundaries. The battalions were located as follows: The 1st at (Q5458), the 2d at (Q5356) and the 3d at (Q5258).

c. The 103d Infantry Division completed the relief of the 6th Armored Division

(1) The 1st and 2d Battalions 410th Infantry began the relief of elements of the 6th Armored Division in position at daylight. The relief was completed at 1530, the 1st Battalion holding the left flank and the 2d Battalion holding the right flank of the line (Q4261) to (Q4957). The 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of DIEBLING (Q4257).

(2) The relief of elements of the 6th Armored Division by the 411th Infantry 103d Infantry Division was impeded by sporadic enemy artillery fire. The left and right flanks of the line (Q3563) to (Q4261) were occupied by the 3d and 2d Battalions 411th Infantry, respectively. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at FAREBERSVILLER (Q3658).

(3) The 409th Infantry moved to forward assembly areas with the 1st Battalion at ST JEAN ROHRBACH (Q3748), the 2d Battalion at QUEVILLER (Q3257) and the 3d Battalion at BARSTADTENTHAL (Q3452).

d. The entire 87th Infantry Division closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of DIEUZE (Q2524) after being relieved by elements of the 44th and the 100th Infantry Divisions.

e. The 12th Armored Division remained in its positions of the previous day.

(1) CCA, located at SINGLING (Q6250), remained on a three hour alert status prepared to move to the north and northwest on Corps order.

(2) CCB patrolled in its sector and occupied defensive positions in the vicinity of BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(3) CCR remained at ROHRBACH (Q6549).

f. Upon relief by elements of VI Corps, the 106th Cavalry Group completed the relief of Task Force FICKETT at 1600.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron relieved elements of the 6th Cavalry Group along the line (Q3375) to (Q3571).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron relieved elements of the 6th Cavalry Group along the line (Q3571) to (Q3568) to (Q3665).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 10 counterbattery missions, 29 observed and 28 unobserved harassing missions. Prepared harassing missions were fired all during the night.

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- h. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 20 foot steel stringer bridge at (Q569508).
- i. XII Tactical Air Force flew six flights over the XV Corps sector, one flight of 12 aircraft giving close support over the 44th Infantry Division sector. Five flights flew armed reconnaissance and bombing missions against road and rail movement, troop concentrations and gun positions.
- j. A total of 36 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: The 44th Infantry Division captured 30, the 100th Infantry Division 4 and 12th Armored Division 2.

25. 25 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps augmented and consolidated its defenses in the face of increasing enemy aggressiveness.

Operations Instructions 73, XV Corps, dated 251030 December, amended Field Order 15, XV Corps, dated 23 December, to include the full use of all types of mine.

Operations Instructions 74, XV Corps, dated 251500 December, directed the 100th Infantry Division to relieve the 12th Armored Division in its front line positions beginning 25 December. The relief was to be completed by midnight of 26 December. The 12th Armored Division was further directed to move one combat command to Corps reserve in the vicinity of FENETRANCE (Q4727); the remainder of the division was directed to move to Corps reserve northeast of DIEUZE (Q2524). One medium tank company was attached to the 100th Infantry Division and 1 medium tank company attached to the 103d Infantry Division.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued to improve its positions. In the sector (Q6559) - (Q6658) an enemy attack caused a slight withdrawal.

(1) The 399th Infantry readjusted and consolidated its positions. The 1st Battalion occupied the line from road junction (Q7748) to the lake at (Q7848) and along the LEMBERG (Q7344) - BITCHE (Q7750) road. The 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q7445). The 3d Battalion occupied the high ground: SPITZBERG (Q7547) - SIGNALBERG (Q7448) - RUTKENKOFF (Q7646).

(2) By 2000 the 1st Battalion 397th Infantry was relieved in positions (Q7155) without incident by elements of the 398th Infantry. Upon relief, the 1st Battalion 397th Infantry moved to an assembly area near GUISING (Q6659) but subsequently was ordered to and occupied a position in the vicinity of (Q5855) - (Q7155). The 2d Battalion, in defensive positions (Q6559) - (Q6658), outposting the regiment all front, was struck in the rear and on the left flank by an enemy attack at 1605. After a brisk fight against enemy employing small arms and automatic weapons, the 2d Battalion withdrew behind other elements of 397th to the vicinity of (Q6453) - (Q7151) and reorganized in regimental reserve. The 3d Battalion held the line: (Q6456) to (Q6666).

(3) Very little change occurred in the 398th Infantry sector where positions were maintained and improved. Patrols kept contact with the units on both flanks. The 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q7155), the 3d Battalion at (Q7252) and the 1st Battalion in the vicinity of (Q7149), in reserve.

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b. The 44th Infantry Division maintained its positions, repulsing an enemy attack in the sector of BLIESBRUCK (Q5957).

(1) The 71st Infantry established a new Main Line of Resistance with the 1st Battalion at (Q6158) forward and to the left of the 3d Battalion at (Q6356). The 2d Battalion remained in regimental reserve in the vicinity of WOELFLING (Q5954) and WEISVILLER (Q5853).

(2) The 324th Infantry, from its defensive positions, engaged targets of opportunity with frequent tank and artillery fire during the period. After a brisk fire fight, the 2d Battalion cleared BLIESBRUCK (Q5957) of enemy who had infiltrated across the blown bridge (Q593577) during the night. The 3d Battalion secured positions on the high ground in the vicinity of FRAUENBERG (Q5559) and later in the town itself when the appearance of the enemy in strength prevented the reoccupation of outposts north of the BLIES River. The 1st Battalion, in reserve in the vicinity of (Q5654) and (Q5457) moved some elements to FOLPERSVILLER (Q5559).

(3) The 1st Battalion (Q5458) and the 3d Battalion (Q5253) 114th Infantry consolidated positions and made contact with units on the flanks. Obstacles were constructed to strengthen the positions and to impede the enemy. Sporadic artillery fire was received during the period. Enemy artillery attempted to destroy a Bailey Bridge in the 3d Battalion sector. The 2d Battalion remained in regimental reserve at (Q5356).

c. The 103d Infantry Division held its defensive positions while making plans for an attack to establish an M.R.

(1) The 410th Infantry consolidated and improved positions with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left holding the line (Q4261) - (Q4957). The 3d Battalion was located at DIEBLING (Q4257).

(2) The 411th Infantry dug in all positions. The 2d Battalion on the left and the 3d Battalion on the right held the line: (Q4261) - (Q5563) with the 1st Battalion in reserve at FAREBERSVILLER (Q3658).

(3) The 409th Infantry reconnoitered for secondary defensive lines and rear battle positions. The 1st Battalion was located at ST JEAN MOHNBACH (Q3848), the 2d Battalion at GUENVILLER (Q3157) and the 3d Battalion at BARSILLARIENTHAL (Q3452).

d. The 87th Infantry Division moved from an assembly area northeast of DIEUZE (Q2524) to an assembly area in the vicinity of RHEIMS passing from control of XV Corps at 0001 26 December.

e. Command of the 12th Armored Division sector was taken over by the Commanding General 100th Infantry Division at 2350 25 December. The 12th Armored Division made preparations for movement to assembly areas at FIESTRANGE (Q4727) and northeast of DIEUZE (Q2524).

(1) CCB repulsed an enemy counterattack in the vicinity of UTWEILLER (Q6858) before being relieved at 2350 by elements of the 100th Infantry Division. At the end of the period all elements of CCB were moving to an assembly area in the vicinity of BETTVILLER (Q6753) preparatory to occupying positions in the vicinity of KIRBERG (Q5024).

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(2) CCA remained in the vicinity of BOURGALTROFF (Q2831) awaiting an order for movement to DIEUZE (Q2524).

c. The 103d Infantry Division held and improved its defensive positions while making plans for an attack to establish an IIR.

(1) The 410th Infantry consolidated and improved positions with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left holding the line (Q4261) - (Q4957). The 3d Battalion was located at DIEBING (Q4257). **DECLASSIFIED**

(2) The 411th Infantry dug in all positions. The 2d Battalion on the left and the 3d Battalion on the right held the line (Q4261) to (Q3563) with the 1st Battalion in reserve at FAREBERSVILLER (Q3658).

(3) The 409th Infantry reconnoitered for defensive positions on AA and BB lines. The 1st Battalion was located at ST ROEDBACH (Q3848), the 2d Battalion at GUENVILLER (Q3157) and the 3d Battalion at BARSTADTENTHAL (Q3452).

d. The 87th Infantry Division moved from an assembly area northeast of DIEUZE (Q2524) to an assembly area in the vicinity of RHEIMS passing from control of XV Corps at 0001 26 December.

e. Command of the 12th Armored Division sector was taken over by the Commanding General 100th Infantry Division at 2350 25 December. The 12th Armored Division made preparations for movement to assembly areas at FETTERANGE (Q4727) and northeast of DIEUZE (Q2524).

(1) CCB repulsed an enemy counterattack in the vicinity of UTWEILER (Q6858) before being relieved at 2350 by elements of the 100th Infantry Division. At the end of the period all elements of CCB were moving to an assembly area in the vicinity of BETTVILLER (Q6753) preparatory to occupying positions in the vicinity of KIRBERG (Q5024).

(2) CCA remained in the vicinity of BOURGALTROFF (Q2831), awaiting an order for movement to DIEUZE (Q2524).

(3) CCK remained in the vicinity of FAREBERSVILLER (Q3658).

f. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to defend its sector and cover the Corps left flank.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron held the line: (Q3375) - (Q3571). Troop "B" outposted LUDWEILER (Q3269).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was in position on the line: (Q3571) - (Q3568) - (Q3665). Enemy movement was reported in numerous places along the front.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 9 counterbattery missions during the day. During the night, 162 battalion volleys were fired in a counterbattery program against 36 enemy batteries. There were 46 observed and 23 unobserved missions, besides several harassing missions fired during the period.

h. XV Corps Engineers converted a railroad bridge at (Q522588) SARREQUEMIES into a class 70 highway bridge.

i. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with 6 flights on planned long range missions bombing the marshalling yards at KAISERLAUTERN (R0293), ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7272), PIRMASENS (Q9066), and HOSBERG (Q7080), as well as a supply dump at (Q897685). Road and rail traffic was also attacked.

j. A total of 25 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 14, the 100th Infantry Division 3, the 12th Armored Division 4, and the 103d Infantry Division 4.

26. 26 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps front was relatively quiet during the period. Its divisions continued to improve their sectors defensively.

a. In the sector of the 100th Infantry Division:

(1) The 399th Infantry improved its positions with no great change in previous locations. The 3d Battalion occupied positions at (Q740456) previously occupied by the 2d Battalion while that unit moved into regimental reserve in the vicinity of ENCHENBERG (Q7246). The 1st Battalion continued occupying positions on the line from the road junction at (Q777487) to the lake at (Q7848) and along the LEMBERG (Q7344) - BITCHE (Q7750) road.

(2) The 398th Infantry maintained and improved its positions. Enemy ground and air reconnaissance was very active. The 1st Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q7149), the 2d Battalion at (Q7155) and the 3d Battalion at (Q7252).

(3) The 397th Infantry adjusted and improved its positions. The 1st Battalion was in the area: (Q5855) - (Q7155). The 3d Battalion relieved the 2d Battalion in position from (Q659590) to (Q667583). The 2d Battalion then moved to regimental reserve at (Q6851). An enemy concentration of approximately 100 infantry and 2 tanks at (Q6756) was broken up by artillery fire.

b. The 44th Infantry Division patrolled its sector and improved its positions.

(1) All positions of the 71st Infantry were held and improved with little change. The 1st Battalion remained in the vicinity of (Q6158), the 2d Battalion at WOELFLING (Q5954) and WEISVILLER (Q5853) and the 3d Battalion near (Q6356).

(2) The defensive positions of the 324th Infantry were strengthened and the enemy harassed with frequent artillery fire. The 1st Battalion remained in reserve near (Q5654) and (Q5457). The 2d Battalion was at FRAUENBERG (Q5559) and the 3d Battalion was at FRAUENBERG (Q5559).

(3) The 114th Infantry worked on its defenses with no change in the location of its units. The 1st Battalion was at (Q5458), the 3d Battalion was at (Q5258) while the 2d Battalion was in reserve at (Q5356).

c. The 103d Infantry Division maintained and improved its positions.

(1) The 409th Infantry held its positions with the 1st Battalion at ST ROHRBACH (Q3848), the 2d Battalion at GUENVILLER (Q3157) and the 3d Battalion in BARSTMARIENTHAL (Q3452).

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(2) The 410th Infantry maintained the line: (Q4957) to (Q4261) with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of DIEBING (Q4257).

(3) Moderate enemy mortar fire fell in the sector of the 410th Infantry. The front: (Q4261) - (Q5565) was held by the 1st Battalion on the left and the 3d Battalion on the right with the 2d Battalion in reserve at DIEBING (Q4257) (Q5658).

d. The movement of the 12th Armored Division to Corps reserve commenced. (Operations Instructions 74 XV Corps, dated 25 December).

(1) CCB moved to the vicinity of KIRUBERG (Q5025) and FETTERANGE (Q4727) closing at 1700.

(2) CCA commenced movement from the vicinity of SINGLING (Q6249) to BOURALTROFF (Q2830). The movement was completed at 1815.

(3) CCR closed in MUNSTER (Q3935) at 1340 after moving from the vicinity of BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron moved from BUTTEN (Q6241) to TORCHEVILLE (Q3534) closing at 1115.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group made no changes in positions.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron held its positions. Troop "B" relieved Troop "C" in position. Troop "C" outposted RUDWILER (Q3269).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled its sector and maintained its positions.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 10 counterbattery and 28 observed missions during the period. Harassing missions were fired on FORBACH (Q3965) and ALSTING (Q4565). Prepared harassing and roadrunner missions were placed in the area of FORBACH, north and northeast of SARREGUEMINES (Q5157), north of RILLING (Q6555) and south of VOLMUNSTER (Q7258).

g. XV Corps Engineers maintained and improved the roads in the Corps area.

h. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery destroyed one enemy plane and fired a total of 12 field artillery missions during the period.

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew numerous missions in support of XV Corps. Heavy damage was reported to marshalling yards and rolling stock. A factory was reported destroyed at (Q3568). Bombs were dropped on an artillery battery at (Q6360), troop concentrations at (Q5565) and bridges at (Q394723) and (Q394723). No close air support missions were flown because of adverse weather conditions.

j. A total of 42 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 103d Infantry Division captured 19, the 12th Armored Division 10, the 100th Infantry Division 1, and the 44th Infantry Division 12.

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27. 27 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps maintained its defensive positions. The entire front was quiet with only patrol activity.

a. The 100th Infantry Division adjusted and improved its positions and continued to send out patrols.

(1) The 2d Battalion 397th Infantry sent a strong patrol into EROCHING (Q6557), which was found to be unoccupied by the enemy. The 1st Battalion was in the area: (Q5855) - (Q7155), the 3d Battalion in position from (Q659590) to (Q667583) and the 2d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q6851).

(2) The 398th Infantry patrolled its sector. The 1st Battalion was located near (Q7149), the 2d Battalion at (Q7255) and the 3d Battalion at (Q7252).

(3) The 399th Infantry sent out strong patrols and strengthened its outposts. The 2d Battalion was located in the vicinity of EICHENBERG (Q7146) the 3d Battalion at (Q7445) and the 1st Battalion on the line from the road junction (Q777487) to the lake at (Q7848) and along the LEIBERG (Q7344) - BITCHE (Q7750) road.

b. The 44th Infantry Division also patrolled in its sector.

(1) Elements of the 71st Infantry occupied the high ground at (Q6457) encountering no resistance. The 1st Battalion remained in the vicinity of (Q6108), the 2d Battalion at WOELFLING (Q5954) and WEISVILLER (Q5855) and the 3d Battalion near (Q6357).

(2) The 324th Infantry continued to improve its defenses. The 2d Battalion was at BLIESBRUCK (Q5957), the 3d Battalion was at FRAUENBERG (Q5559), and the 1st Battalion remained in reserve near (Q5654) and (Q5457).

(3) The 114th Infantry sent out patrols in its sector and to the units on its flanks. The 1st Battalion was at (Q5458), the 3d Battalion was at (Q5258) and the 2d Battalion remained in its reserve positions at (Q5356).

c. The 103d Infantry Division maintained and improved its positions laterally and in depth.

(1) The 2d and 3d Battalions 411th Infantry held the line: (Q420610) - (Q352638) with the 2d Battalion on the left while the 1st Battalion moved to the vicinity of (Q3459) in regimental reserve.

(2) The 409th Infantry continued to organize its sector. The 1st Battalion remained at ST ROHRBACH (Q3848), the 2d Battalion at QUETVILLER (Q3157) and the 3d Battalion in BARSTMARIENTHAL (Q3452).

(3) The 410th Infantry remained in its positions with the 1st and 2d Battalions respectively holding the line: (Q420610) - (Q499572). The 3d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of DIEBLING (Q4257).

d. The 12th Armored Division passed to the control of the XXI Corps at 1200 in present locations. Elements attached to XV Corps units were to be relieved of their present missions on six hours notice, as ordered by Attachment Letter, Seventh Army, dated 27 December 1944.

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e. The 106th Cavalry Group conducted patrols and improved its defenses. Contact with the enemy occurred in only one place.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrols encountered small arms fire from the enemy in the vicinity of (Q237746). Approximately 40 enemy were observed in the vicinity of (Q3472).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled its front and continued to improve its defensive positions.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 19 counterbattery missions. Harassing and neutralizing missions were fired on tanks, infantry, CPs and a factory at PARBACH (Q3965). Harassing missions were fired on vehicular traffic in the vicinity of HABKIRCHEN (Q5669) and on hostile activity north of WALSHEIM (Q6361).

g. XV Corps Engineers replaced a Bailey Bridge at (Q558627) with a Class 40 steel stringer bridge. The Bailey bridge at REILING (Q6555) was removed.

h. XII Tactical Air Force bombed supply installations and marshalling yards in the vicinity of THALEISWILLER (Q8873) and the marshalling yards in the vicinity of ZWEIBRUCKEN and PIRLAUSENS.

i. A total of 9 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 12th Armored Division captured 1, the 103d Infantry Division 2, and the 44th Infantry Division 6.

28. 28 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps continued to improve its defenses, to patrol and to harass with artillery any enemy movement noted. Letter Seventh Army, dated 29 December 1944, attached CCA 14th Armored Division to XV Corps for operations. This attachment provided an armored reserve between the VOSGES and the SAPE River.

a. The 100th Infantry Division improved its positions and patrolled to its front and flanks.

(1) The 397th Infantry conducted active patrolling and improved its defensive organization by adjusting positions. The 1st Battalion remained in the area: (Q5855) - (Q7155), the 3d Battalion in position from (Q6659) to (Q6658) while the 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q6651).

(2) The 398th Infantry strengthened its positions and patrolled to its front. The 1st Battalion was located near (Q7149), the 2d Battalion at (Q7255) and the 3d Battalion in the area of (Q7252).

(3) The 399th Infantry improved its defenses. The 2d Battalion remained at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), the 3d Battalion occupied positions near (Q7145) and the 1st Battalion occupied positions on the line from the road junction at (Q777487) to the lake at (Q7848) and also the LERBERG (Q7344) - BITCHE (Q7750) road.

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued developing its defensive positions and patrolled to its front. Obstacles were placed to impede an enemy attack.

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(1) Some artillery fire was heard in the sector of the 71st Infantry. The 1st Battalion remained in the vicinity of (Q6159), the 2d Battalion at WOELFLIN (Q5954) and WEISVILLER (Q5853) and the 3d Battalion near (Q6357).

(2) The 2d Battalion 324th Infantry remained at BLIESBRUCK (Q5957), the 3d Battalion remained in the vicinity of FRAUENBERG (Q5559), and the 1st Battalion remained in reserve near (Q562544) and (Q545575). Work on defenses continued.

(3) The 1st Battalion 114th Infantry remained in position near (Q5458), the 3d Battalion at (Q5258) and the 2d Battalion in reserve at (Q5356). Defenses were improved and patrolling continued.

c. The 103d Infantry Division improved its defenses and patrolled to the front and flanks.

(1) The 409th Infantry continued to improve its positions. The 1st Battalion remained at ST ROHRBACH (Q3848), the 2d Battalion at GUENVILLER (Q3157) and the 3d Battalion in BARSTHARIENTHAL (Q3452).

(2) The 1st and 2d Battalions 410th Infantry held the line (Q4261) - (Q499572) with the 2d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of DIEBLING (Q4257).

(3) The 2d and 3d Battalions 411th Infantry held the line (Q420610) to (Q352638) with the 2d Battalion on the left while the 1st Battalion remained in the vicinity of (Q345594) in regimental reserve.

d. COA 14th Armored Division (composed of: Hq & Hq Det., 48th Tank Battalion, 68th Armored Infantry Battalion, 501st Armored Field Artillery Battalion, Co A, 84th Armored Medical Battalion, Co B, 136th Ordnance Battalion, Troop C, 94th Reconnaissance Squadron, Co C, 125th Armored Engineer Battalion), attached to XV Corps, commenced movement to the DRULINGEN area (Q5938).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained its positions and kept contact with the units on its right and left.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled its sector without incident during the period.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its positions and patrolled to its front with little hostile activity noted.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 24 counterbattery and 3 observed missions. Three harassing missions were fired on vehicles, on a suspected enemy CP and on a road from SARREGUEMINES (Q5156) to AUERSMACHEN (Q5069).

g. XV Corps Engineers converted a Class 70 Bailey Bridge to a timber steel stringer bridge at (Q516572) and completed a one-way Class 15 bridge at (Q338689).

h. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish close air support because of poor visibility.

i. A total of 6 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 3, the 100th Infantry Division 1, and the 103d Infantry Division 2.

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a. The 100th Infantry Division consolidated and improved its positions. The sector was very quiet during the period.

(1) The 1st Battalion 399th Infantry remained at (Q7648). The 2d Battalion relieved elements of the 398th Infantry and the 399th Infantry at (Q7553). The 3d Battalion was located in the vicinity of (Q7547).

(2) The 2d Battalion 398th Infantry adjusted and improved its positions at (Q7352) maintaining contact with the units on the right and the left. The 1st Battalion relieved elements of the 397th Infantry and the 2d Battalion 398th Infantry at (Q7053), and the 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve northeast of SIERSTHAL (Q7149). A small enemy patrol was captured during the period.

(3) The 1st Battalion 397th Infantry was relieved by elements of the 398th Infantry and then moved to positions in the vicinity of (Q6754). The 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q6450) and the 3d Battalion at (Q6552).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued organizing and improving its defenses. Patrols maintained light contact with the enemy.

(1) The 2d Battalion 71st Infantry relieved the 3d Battalion in place at (Q6357), the 3d Battalion moving to WOELTLING (Q5954). No change occurred in the positions of the 1st Battalion (Q6159); moderate artillery and mortar fire fell in the area.

(2) The 2d Battalion 324th Infantry at BLIESBRUCK (Q5957) sent a strong patrol to RHEINHEIM (Q5960). The patrol found that enemy elements were located northeast of the town. The 3d Battalion remained in the area of TRAUENBERG (Q5559). The 1st Battalion was in regimental reserve in the vicinity of (Q5654) and (Q5457).

(3) The front line of the 114th Infantry remained unaltered. The sector was quiet and only routine patrolling was carried out. The 1st Battalion was near (Q5458), the 3d Battalion in position at (Q5258) and the 2d Battalion in reserve at (Q5356).

c. The 103d Infantry Division continued to patrol to the front and to improve its defenses.

(1) Positions of the 410th Infantry remained static; the 1st and 3d Battalions held the line from (Q4261) to (Q5057), while the 3d Battalion was in reserve at DIEBLING (Q4257).

(2) The 411th Infantry constructed barrier defenses in its sector. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line from (Q4261) to (Q3561) and the 1st Battalion remained in reserve near (Q3459).

(3) The 409th Infantry continued to improve its positions with the 1st Battalion at ST ROHRBACH (Q3848), the 2d Battalion near GUENVILLER (Q3157) and the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of BARSTMARIENTHAL (Q3452).

d. The 36th Infantry Division (attached to XV Corps per oral orders Commanding General Seventh Army) carried out a program of training and rehabilitation in the vicinity of LORQUIN (Q4507).

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Dec 44, dtd 15 Mar 45, Cont'd.

e. CCA 14th Armored Division arrived in DRULINGEN (Q6029) closing at 0500 where it remained on a 3-hour alert prepared to counterattack to the north and northwest or to block the passes of the VOSGES between FALSBOURG (Q6519) and TIEFFENBACH (Q6434). A limited program of training was carried out during the period.

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f. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to patrol within its sector from (Q3375) to (Q3665). Both the 121st and 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons improved their positions. Patrols maintained slight contact with the enemy.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 23 counterbattery and 37 observed missions, the latter including missions on a bridge at (Q536620), northeast of S. REGUILLIES and a railroad station at SARREBRUCKEN (Q4670). Ten neutralization missions were fired on OPs, personnel and tanks.

h. XV Corps Engineers completed conversion of a Class 70 bridge to a Class 40 bridge at (Q516572). A 70 foot Bailey Bridge was replaced with a Class 15 steel stringer bridge at (Q3368).

i. XII Tactical Air Force dispatched five flights in support of XV Corps; WALDHAUSEN (Q8060) was bombed in support of the 100th Infantry Division in addition to the bombing of NEUNKIRCHEN (Q5982), HOLBERG (Q7130) and KAISERLAUTERN (R0234). Poor visibility made close air support impracticable.

j. A total of 9 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 2, the 100th Infantry Division 5, the 12th Armored Division 1, and Corps troops 1.

30. 30 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps maintained its positions and patrolled to the front. Contact with the enemy was limited to a raid and the usual patrol contacts. Seventh Army Field Order 9, dated 30 December 1944, announced the attachment of the 2d French Armored Division and Task Force HARRIS to XV Corps.

Operations Instructions 83 XV Corps, dated 1500, 30 December 1944, announced the immediate attachment of Task Force HARRIS (253d and 255th Infantry Regiments) which were with the VI Corps. The task force under VI Corps was scheduled to move on the nights 30-31 December and 31 December-1 January to XV Corps and under the control of the latter to assembly areas in the vicinity of HERBISHEIM (Q5246) and RAHLING (Q6244). The 253d Infantry Regiment was attached to the 44th Infantry Division effective upon arrival in the XV Corps area the night of 30-31 December, to be initially employed by that division to garrison the right (east) portion of the new Main Line of Resistance (the MAGNOT LINE) within the division sector. The 255th Infantry Regiment was attached to the 100th Infantry Division effective upon its arrival in the Corps area the night of 31-1 January. The initial employment of this regiment was limited to garrisoning a suitable area on the left (west) portion of the new Main Line of Resistance (the MAGNOT LINE) within the Division sector.

Operations Instructions 85 XV Corps, was published at 2130 announcing the attachment of the 2d French Armored Division to XV Corps effective upon its arrival in the XV Corps area about 1 January 1945. The division then near STRASBOURG was

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to move on order of the Commanding General Seventh Army to an assembly area in the vicinity of RAUWILLER (Q5423). Upon arrival the division was to be prepared to move on Corps order to counterattack to the northeast from the vicinity of SARRE-UNION (Q5238) or to the northeast from the vicinity of DOMFESSEL (Q6739). Reconnaissance was to be conducted without delay to prepare for these missions.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued to maintain and improve its defensive positions. Patrols were sent out but failed to contact the enemy. A raid of platoon strength was made on URBACH (Q7056).

(1) Dispositions of the 1st and 2d Battalions 398th Infantry remained unchanged. Both battalions patrolled aggressively throughout the period. A raiding party captured 15 prisoners near URBACH. The 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve near SIERSTHAL (Q7149).

(2) The 399th Infantry made minor adjustments and improvements in its positions which remained the same as the previous period. Patrolling was active but no contact was made with the enemy.

(3) Elements of the 1st Battalion 397th Infantry, after an artillery preparation and supported by four tanks, raided the enemy in the woods at (Q676560), taking 19 prisoners and killing 12 Germans. During the period, the regimental command post was bombed by airplanes identified as being P-47s believed to be flown by enemy pilots. All battalions of the 397th Infantry continued improving their positions which remained the same as the previous period.

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued to strengthen its positions, patrolled its sector and conducted raids. The front was quiet with no aggressive action from the enemy.

(1) All battalions of the 114th Infantry remained in the same positions as those of the previous day. Patrols were sent out but no contact with the enemy was made.

(2) Patrols of the 3d Battalion 71st Infantry encountered small arms fire while raiding an enemy CP at (Q504593). Six prisoners were captured. No change was made in the disposition of units.

(3) The sector of the 324th Infantry was quiet with only the usual patrolling. Positions were maintained with no change in the disposition of units. No contact was made with the enemy though the movement of enemy vehicles on the REINHEIM - BLIESBRUCK road was heard. The 2d Battalion was at BLIESBRUCK (Q5957), the 3d Battalion at FRAUENBERG (Q5559) and the 1st Battalion remained in reserve at (Q5654) and (Q5457).

c. The 103d Infantry Division readjusted and improved its positions. There was no hostile fire and no contact with the enemy. Friendly tanks demonstrated along the front, but drew no fire.

(1) All units of the 409th Infantry continued to strengthen their positions. Patrols were sent out but no contact with the enemy occurred.

(2) The 410th Infantry maintained its positions of the previous period. No hostile activity was noted by patrols.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Dec 44, dtd 15 Mar 45, Cont'd.

(3) The 411th Infantry completed its extensive program of laying mine fields, erecting tactical wire and preparing the bridges in its sector for demolition. There was no change in the locations of the units from that of the former period.

d. The 12th Armored Division continued its program of rehabilitation, re-organization and training in Corps reserve in the general area: GUEBLING (Q2729) - NEBLING (Q3234) - TORCHVILLE (Q3535) - WIDESTROFF (Q3028). (This division during the period it was attached to the XXI Corps remained in the area shown (XV Corps sector)).

e. CCI (Task Force MINJONNET) 2d French Armored Division closed in its assembly area near POSTROFF (Q5228) at 2000.

f. CCA 14th Armored Division continued its reconnaissance in connection with its missions to counterattack on Corps order to the north and northwest or to block the passes of the VOSGES between PHAISBOURG and NIENFERBACH (Q6434). A limited program of physical conditioning and crew training was carried out.

g. The 36th Infantry Division remained in Corps reserve in the vicinity of IORQUIN (Q4507) and conducted a program of rehabilitation and training.

h. The 253d Infantry Regiment of Task Force HARRIS was in the process of closing in an assembly area in the vicinity of OENNINGEN (Q5544) at the end of the period. The 255th Infantry of Task Force HARRIS was preparing to move from the VI Corps area.

i. The 106th Cavalry Group improved its positions and maintained contact with the 103d Infantry Division on the right and elements of the 95th Infantry Division (XX Corps) on the left. The sector remained quiet with no contact with the enemy.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the line: (Q339726) - (Q343724) - (Q345740) and (Q334740) - (Q322745) - (Q331743) and conducted active patrolling to the front.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled vigorously and maintained the line: (Q323696) - (Q360560).

j. XV Corps Artillery fired 11 counterbattery and observed missions.

k. XV Corps Engineers constructed a small trestle bridge at (Q283659), completed a road from SARREGUEMINES (Q5156) to (Q529544), swept roads for mines, and began preparing all bridges in the Corps area for demolition.

l. XII Tactical Air Force flew 12 flights of 144 aircraft over XV Corps area. Armored reconnaissance was conducted over the SAPPBRUCKEN (Q4671) - VOLMUNSTER (Q7258) - BITCHE (Q7750) area with particular attention to road and rail movement, troop concentrations and gun positions. Particular attention was paid to the railroad gun at (Q413864). Railroads were bombed and strafed, the tracks being reported cut in 11 places. Fifteen locomotives and a substantial number of railroad cars were reported destroyed or badly damaged. Five ME-109s were shot down. Due to poor visibility no close support missions were flown.

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m. A total of 36 prisoners were captured by XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division, the 100th Infantry Division 25, and the 103d Infantry Division 8.

31. 31 DECEMBER 1944:

XV Corps held firmly in its defensive positions and patrolled aggressively to obtain information of the enemy.

At 1000 the Commanding General Seventh Army informed the Commanding General XV Corps by telephone that an enemy attack in force might be expected on the Corps front at any time. All Corps units were alerted for the attack.

Field Order 16 XV Corps, dated 2200, 31 December, was issued. This order clarified unit responsibility for the organization of the Corps sector and stressed the following:

Defend on present positions; organize in depth, dig-in, wire-in, mine. Cover all approaches by entrenchments, wire and AT mines. Cover all roads leading into sector by road blocks, reinforced by AT mines and defended by fire. Formulate plans for a withdrawal on Corps order to, and defense of, the MAGINOT LINE and switch positions thereto within Division sector. Units in Corps reserve to initiate reconnaissance and prepare plans without delay - prepared on Corps order to execute counterattack mission assigned.

a. In the zone of the 100th Infantry Division positions were improved and patrolling continued. The enemy was not aggressive during the period.

(1) The 397th Infantry maintained and improved its positions with no change in the dispositions of its units. Patrols were dispatched but no contact with the enemy occurred.

(2) Patrols of the 399th Infantry searched the woods at (Q765506) but found no enemy. There were no changes in the disposition of battalions which remained the same as the previous period. The sector was quiet with little artillery fire reported.

(3) All units of the 398th Infantry held and improved their positions with no changes in dispositions. Patrols of the 1st Battalion surprised the enemy at WIESKERCH (Q7156) and captured 15 prisoners without resistance. A patrol of the 2d Battalion killed an estimated 25 Germans in a fire fight during a raid on DOLLENBACH (Q7257).

b. The front of the 44th Infantry Division remained quiet; positions were held and improved. Patrols only made contact with the enemy.

(1) The 71st Infantry maintained its positions with no change in unit dispositions. Patrols were sent out but no contact was reported.

(2) The 114th Infantry remained in the positions of the previous day. The sector was quiet with no enemy movements observed. Day and night patrols were sent out, but no hostile action was reported.

Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Dec 44, dtd 15 Mar 45, Cont'd.

(3) The 324th Infantry continued to improve its defenses. No activity occurred in the sector; patrols made no contact with the enemy.

(4) At 0940 the 253d Infantry closed in the vicinity of OBERMUNZ (Q5544). The 3d Battalion remained in that location while the 1st and 2d Battalions took up positions along the line (Q5750) to (Q5252) with the 1st Battalion on the right. Reconnaissance was made for positions which were then organized and improved.

c. There was no change in the activities of the 103d Infantry Division. Defenses were maintained and improved with the disposition of the troops remaining the same. Patrols dispatched reported no contact with the enemy. The sector was quiet with no reports of artillery or small arms fire.

d. The 12th Armored Division conducted a limited program of training with preparations complete for executing the assigned missions (counterattacks in the event of an enemy penetration). All units remained in the QUEHLING (Q2729) - NEBLING (Q3234) - TORCHVILLE (Q3535) - BIDESSTOFF (Q3028) area.

e. Task Force MASSU, 2d French Armored Division closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of FIEHELE (Q5619). CCL (Task Force LEMJONNET) remained in the area of POSTROFF (Q5228) and conducted a program of rehabilitation and training.

f. CCA 14th Armored Division remained on its alert status prepared to counter-attack on Corps order from the vicinity of DRULHGEN to the north and northwest or to block the passes of the VOSGES between PHALSBOURG and TIEFENBACH (Q6434). A limited program of conditioning and crew training was carried out.

g. The 36th Infantry Division remained in Corps reserve in the vicinity of LORQUIN (Q4507) and conducted a program of rehabilitation and training.

h. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained and improved its positions and kept in contact with elements of the 103d Infantry Division on the right and elements of the 95th Infantry Division (IX Corps) on the left. The sector was quiet; no contact with the enemy was reported.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved its positions and patrolled its front but made no contact with the enemy.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in the same positions as the previous period. Patrols were active but no enemy contacts were reported.

i. XV Corps Artillery fired defensive missions for the 44th Infantry Division west of ERCHING (Q6557). Thirty-one observed missions were fired in the vicinity of SAARBRUCKEN (Q4671) - RILLING (Q6565) and northwest of BITCHE (Q7750). A total of 27 counterbattery missions was fired during the period.

j. XV Corps Engineers destroyed mines in the Corps sector and constructed a floating trestle bridge across the SARRE River (Q56532).

k. XII Tactical Air Force flew 12 flights of 144 aircraft over the XV Corps sector. A train was reported destroyed in a tunnel at (Q9471); bombs caused large

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explosions at a dump at (Q897658); the marshalling yards at ST. MENDEL (Q5997) were bombed with reported good results; large fires were reported started at KAISER-LAUTERN (R0293) and HEINZENHAUSEN (L9114); and HOLBERG (Q7281) marshalling yards were bombed and the roundhouse and 80 miscellaneous cars were reported destroyed.

1. A total of 34 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 13, the 100th Infantry Division 20, and the 103d Infantry Division 1.

SECTION III

SUMMARY

1. During the early part of December, after reorganizing, receiving additional units and new zones of action and changing direction from an advance to the east to an advance to the north, XV Corps attacked the MAGNOT LINE. All MAGNOT forts west of BITCHE (97750) were taken by the middle of the month; the attack on the forts east of BITCHE was in progress when orders from higher headquarters changed the mission of XV Corps from an offensive mission to a defensive mission. Because of the change in the situation on the front of the Twelfth Army Group and the consequent movement of troops from the SARE front, XV Corps was directed on 21 December to assume the defensive and continued to do so for the remainder of the month.

2. On about 20 December it became apparent that there was a general buildup of enemy strength in progress on the Corps front. On 19 December the 257th Infantry Division was identified, and on 26 December the first prisoners of war were taken from the 19th Infantry Division. Although the reconnaissance elements of the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division had been continuously in contact on the Corps front since early December, it was known that major elements of the division were being strengthened and refitted in rear areas. Several sources indicated that 1,000 replacements had been received from Czechoslovakia and Germany, and the addition of a new tank or assault gun battalion had increased the number of armored vehicles by 50 or 60. Higher headquarters indicated on 26 December that the 559th Infantry Division had been withdrawn from the XX Corps front and was moving to the east toward the BITCHE area. The 21st Panzer Division, not definitely located, was believed by higher headquarters to be available for use on the XV Corps front. During the closing hours of the year, on the night of 31 December, the enemy launched an attack with the 347th Infantry Division, 19th Infantry Division, 36th Infantry Division, 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, and the 257th Infantry Division lined up against XV Corps from left to right.

3. The following communication centers were liberated by IV Corps during the period:

SARREINSBERG (07442)
LEBERG (07445)
ST LOUIS (07243)
WINGEN (07436)
MONTBRONN (06944)

DIERENINGEN (Q6038)
WILLENAU (Q7735)
SIERSTAL (Q7150)
ENCHENBERG (Q7146)
HOTTVILLER (Q7353)

4. During the month of December 1944, XV Corps destroyed 33 enemy tanks and 4 self-propelled guns.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Rpt After Action for Dec 44, dtd 15 Mar 45, Cont'd.

5. XV Corps was opposed by units of the 11th Panzer Division, the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, 19th Infantry Division, 25th Panzer Grenadier Division, 130th Panzer Lehr Division, 36th Infantry Division, 245th Infantry Division, 256th Infantry Division, 257th Infantry Division, 347th Infantry Division and 361st Infantry Division at various times during the month of December. The aggregate strength of these major units at the beginning of the month, or at the time of their commitment against XV Corps, is estimated 19,400, but was reduced by 5,580 casualties during the period. In addition to the above named major units 40 others, mostly battle groups and miscellaneous units of battalion size, were contacted. 2,174 prisoners were taken.

6. The artillery with the Corps expended approximately 243,000 rounds of ammunition of all calibers during the month of December. The largest single day's expenditure was 13,687 rounds on 1 December. The lowest single day's expenditure was 3,754 on 31 December. The majority of the missions were harassing and neutralization missions on enemy personnel, CPs and vehicles. A number of destruction missions were fired on the forts of the MAGINOT LINE in the area west of BITCHE. Shells with the "Pozit" fuze were used for the first time on 24 December. Enemy artillery fire continued to be principally of a harassing nature. A majority of the concentrations were 10 to 25 rounds of light caliber with very few concentrations of medium and heavy caliber shells. The middle of the month was quiet with the greatest activity at the beginning and towards the end of the month. The enemy artillery concentrated on the front lines with very little fire being received in the artillery areas.

7. As stated above the Corps was in the process of reducing the forts of the MAGINOT LINE in the vicinity of BITCHE when, without warning, orders were received on 21 December to discontinue the offensive and assume the defensive. Subsequent instructions from the Commanding General Seventh Army directed the Corps to take over the zone of the XII Corps, including the relief of three infantry divisions (35th, 80th and 87th), of two armored divisions (4th and 6th), of the XII Corps artillery and Task Force FICHT (6th and 28th Cavalry Squadrons with attached artillery and tank destroyers). During this same period the 103d Infantry Division was attached to the XV Corps and moved from the VI Corps to an assembly area under control of the XV Corps and from there to its assigned sector.

8. The foregoing movements entailed discontinuing the attack on a front of 32 kilometers, assuming the defensive on a front of 75 kilometers, while at the same time effecting the relief of major units of the XII Corps. Some XV Corps units were required to shift substantial elements laterally while others were completely displaced for distances in excess of 30 kilometers. Through careful planning, effective staff coordination and the fine spirit of cooperation and service displayed by all units of the Corps, the transition from the attack to the defense, including the relief of units of the XII Corps, was completed in four days. For the next seven days all commanders and staffs devoted their entire time and effort to improving and strengthening the defensive positions. Consequently the Corps faced the prospects of an early German attack with every feeling of confidence. When the German attack developed during the hours of darkness, 31 December, the Corps was found alert and ready to give battle.

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Wade H. Haislip

WADE H. HAISLIP,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

5 Annexes:

- 1 - Annex 1 (G-1 Data & Statistics)
- 2 - Annex 2 (G-2 Enemy Order of Battle).
- 3 - Annex 3 (Chief of Staff, General).
- 4 - Annex 4 (G-4, Supply, Transportation,
& Evacuation).
- 5 - Annex 5 (G-5 Civil Affairs) Historical
Data).

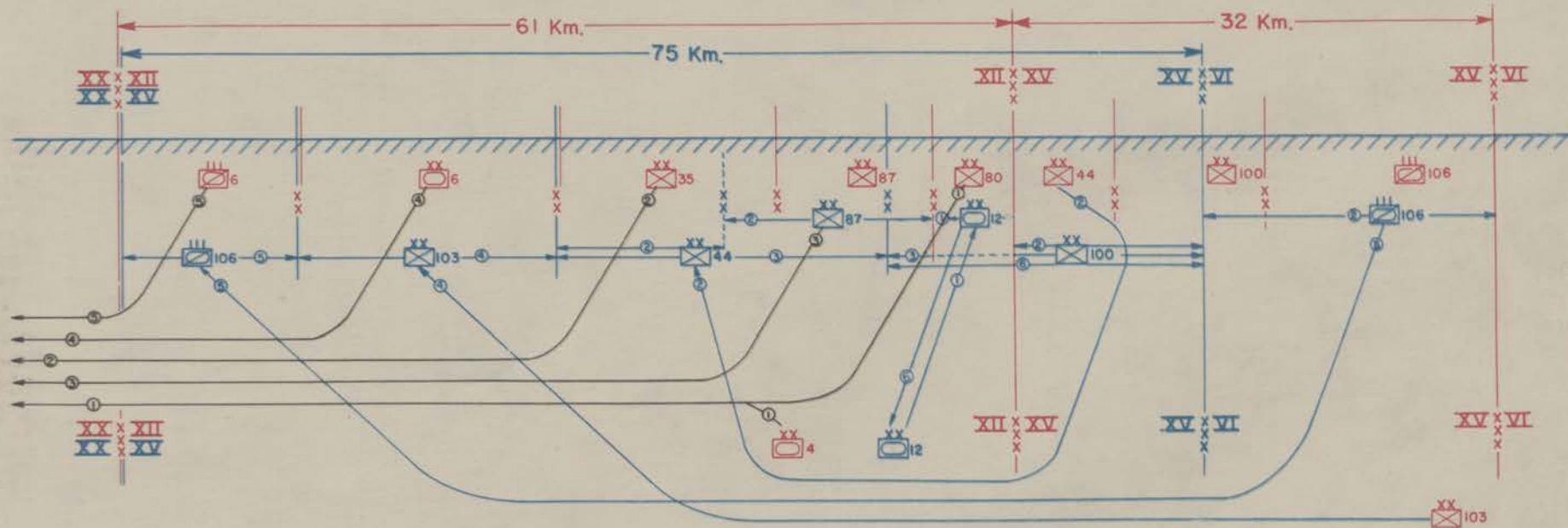
6 Inclosures:

- 1 - Diagramatic Explanation of Changes in
XV Corps Front, 19-25 Dec 44.
- 2 - Map Showing Emplacements in MAGNOT LINE.
- 3 - Engineer Report.
- 4 - Signal Report.
- 5 - Chemical Report.
- 6 - G-3 Journal and Journal File, Nos. 1
thru 31, inclusive, December 44.

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"Action Against Enemy, Reports After"
 XV Corps, United States Army
 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944

Diagrammatic Explanation of Changes in XV Corps Front during the Period 19-25 December 1944.
 (All units shown had been attacking and were in close contact with the enemy).



LEGEND

Boundaries and disposition of units. (Frontage approximately to scale):

Red - Before adjustment began.
 Blue - During and upon completion of adjustment.

Sequence of troop adjustments:

- (1) 12 Armd Div relieved 80 Inf Div in Z; 80 Inf Div and 4 Armd Div departed Corps Z.
- (2) 106 Cav Gp relieved 100 Inf Div in right portion of Z; 100 Inf Div relieved 44 Inf Div in Z; 44 and 87 Inf Divs relieved 35 Inf Div in Z; 35 Inf Div departed Corps Z.
- (3) 44 and 100 Inf Divs relieved 87 Inf Div in Z (12 Armd Div continued to occupy its Z within Z of 100 Inf Div); 87 Inf Div departed Corps Z.
- (4) 103 Inf Div relieved 6 Armd Div in Z; 6 Armd Div departed Corps Z.
- (5) 106 Cav Gp relieved 6 Cav Gp in Z; 6 Cav Gp departed Corps Z.
- (6) 100 Inf Div relieved 12 Armd Div in Z; 12 Armd Div moved to Corps reserve.

(Note: Diagram does not show the departure of 17 FA Bns and other XII Corps units from the XII Corps Zone of action, nor the lateral displacement of 10 FA Bns and other XV Corps units which was accomplished during the extension of the front of the Corps).

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HEADQUARTERS
XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

+Auth: CG XV Corps+
+Date: 12 May 45+
+Initials: *WLS*+

AG 314.7 (G)

APC 436, US Army
12 May 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, Seventh Army)

In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, dated 18 November 1929, and Change 4 thereto, dated 10 August 1944, and Section IV, Circular No. 34, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 28 November 1944, the following report covering the operations of XV Corps during the period 1 January - 31 January 1945, both dates inclusive, is submitted.

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

1. At the beginning of the month of January the composition of XV Corps remained unaltered from that of the last day of the previous month. In the line, supported by Corps troops, were the 100th Infantry Division, the 44th Infantry Division, the 103d Infantry Division, and the 106th Cavalry Group. The 12th Armored Division, CCL 2d French Armored Division, CCA 14th Armored Division, the 36th Infantry Division and the 253d and 255th Infantry Regiments (63d Infantry Division) were in Corps reserve.

2. Since 21 December, the XV Corps mission had been one of defense. The Corps front was being held by a minimum number of troops in order that the greatest strength possible might be brought to bear against the German counteroffensive then in progress along the front of the First and Ninth U.S. Armies. All units of the Corps were engaged in preparing defensive positions which were sited to take the maximum advantage of commanding terrain features and of the MAGNOT LINE defensive system. Positions were dug in, tactical wire strung, obstacles constructed, and mine fields planted. Main and secondary defense positions were organized and plans were made for further defense in depth. The enemy's strength had been perceptibly increasing during the latter part of December and just before the start of the new year the Germans attacked.

SECTION II

NARRATIVE

1 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued to improve and defend its sector. The enemy attacked strongly in the center of the Corps sector and was successful in making a slight penetration northwest of REILING (Q6243).

Note 1: All hours are "A" hours (British Summer Time).

Note 2: All map references are to map GSGS 4249, 4416, Scale 1/100,000, FRANCE.

(Over)

Operations Instructions of XV Corps, dated 2230, 1 January confirmed oral instructions previously issued and covered in substance the following: The 12th Armored Division was directed to establish and maintain a counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE to detect and destroy any infiltration of enemy armor. CCA 14th Armored Division was instructed to establish and maintain a similar counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE RIVER for the same purposes. The 44th Infantry Division was authorized to employ one battalion of the 253d Infantry in the sector north of WOEFLING (Q5954). The 100th Infantry Division was authorized to employ one battalion of the 255th Infantry to protect the right flank of Corps in the vicinity of IEMBERG (Q7345). The 36th Infantry Division was ordered to move one regimental combat team to the area of WALDHAMBACH (Q6236). Upon arrival the RCT was to be attached to the 100th Infantry Division with the mission of protecting the Corps right flank. The 2d French Armored Division was instructed to be prepared to take over the counter-reconnaissance mission of CCA 14th Armored Division.

a. The 100th Infantry Division received an attack on both flanks during the hours of darkness shortly after midnight 31 December - 1 January. Some elements of the division were forced to withdraw slightly, but in general, positions were held. These attacks were made primarily by infantry with little support of any other nature. At the same time the enemy attacked Task Force HUDDLESTON (117th and 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons and 19th Armored Infantry Battalion) the left element of the VI Corps. Task Force HUDDLESTON was surprised and forced to withdraw in disorder, dangerously exposing the right flank of XV Corps.

(1) Shortly after midnight the enemy launched a strong attack against the 1st Battalion 399th Infantry positions on the high ground near (Q7749). These positions were lost and regained twice by 1130. At 1200 the enemy again attacked the 1st Battalion on the high ground near (Q7743) from flanking positions along the REYERSVILLER Ridge (Q7549) forcing the battalion to withdraw to the vicinity of (Q7450). The 2d Battalion maintained its positions near (Q7252). The 3d Battalion adjusted its positions along the line: (Q7449) - (Q7645) to protect the Corps right flank. The 3d Battalion 255th Infantry moved into the sector of the 3d Battalion prepared to assist if necessary. At 1600 the enemy delivered a sharp attack against the right of the 3d Battalion. The attack was repulsed and positions were held.

(2) Elements of the 3d Battalion 398th Infantry were attached to the 1st Battalion 399th Infantry to strengthen the defense of the battalion sector. The remainder of the 3d Battalion 398th Infantry retained its positions near (Q7052). The regiment (less elements of the 3d Battalion) held the same positions as during the previous period. The battalions had no contact with the enemy.

(3) The 397th Infantry held its positions in spite of several strong enemy attacks. The 1st Battalion repulsed an enemy attempt to advance along the draw near (Q6855) early in the period. An attack at 0015 in the sector of the 3d Battalion caused a slight withdrawal, but an immediate counterattack supported by tanks restored the line: (Q6456) - (Q6756). Approximately 35 enemy who had infiltrated into REMLING (Q6555) were captured by the 3d Battalion with the assistance of elements of the 2d Battalion. The remainder of the 2d Battalion continued in reserve in the vicinity of (Q655528).

(4) The 255th Infantry (attached to 100th Infantry Division) closed at 0500 in an assembly area in the vicinity of DEHLINGEN (Q6042). At 1200 the 1st

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and 2d Battalions moved to occupy a defensive position (Q6248), arriving at 1700. The 3d Battalion was placed in division reserve and moved to MONTGROIN (Q6844). At 1230 elements of the 3d Battalion reinforced the 399th Infantry at MONTGROIN (Q7445) and assisted in repulsing an enemy attack at 1600.

(5) At the request of the Commanding General XV Corps the Commanding General Seventh Army permitted the employment of one RCT of the 36th Infantry Division to be used to protect the Corps right flank and free the gap left by the withdrawal of Task Force HUDDLESTON (VI Corps). In compliance with oral instructions of Commanding General XV Corps the 141st RCT 36th Infantry Division moved from its training area in the vicinity of LORQUIN (Q4507) commencing at 1600 to an assembly area in the vicinity of MONTBROIN (Q6944) and closed there late in the day, at which time the RCT passed to the control of Commanding General 100th Infantry Division. The 3d Battalion 141st Infantry relieved elements of the 399th Infantry and the 255th Infantry in defensive positions in the vicinity of (Q7446), and (Q7445). The 2d Battalion moved into positions at (Q7444), (Q7442), and (Q7441). The 1st Battalion outposted MONTBROIN.

b. The enemy attacked along the entire front of the 44th Infantry Division. Slight withdrawals were necessitated in some instances, but by the close of the period practically the entire line had been restored.

(1) The enemy attacked at 2345 on 31 December and exerted strong pressure on the 2d Battalion 71st Infantry. Elements of the battalion withdrew slightly in the face of artillery and mortar fire and infantry supported by tanks. Assisted by elements of the 3d Battalion, the 2d Battalion counterattacked supported by tanks and restored its positions: (Q6257) - (Q6456), prior to the close of the period. The 3d Battalion cleared out the enemy force which had infiltrated into the woods near (Q6055). The 1st Battalion 324th Infantry (less one company) and the 3d Battalion 253d Infantry were attached to the 71st Infantry to organize and defend GROS REDERCHING (Q6252). Near the close of the period the 1st Battalion 324th Infantry (less one company) reverted to regimental control and moved to the vicinity of (Q5756).

(2) In the sector of the 324th Infantry, the enemy attempted to cross the BLIES RIVER at three places, near (Q5758), (Q5659) and (Q5658), but was turned back at each by mortar and artillery fire. At 0650 elements of the 2d Battalion were ordered to withdraw from the OPLR to the MLR. All demolitions in the area between the OPLR and the MLR were completed by 0806. At the close of the period the regiment still retained all positions along the MLR and was disposed as follows: (Q5459) - (Q5958). The 1st Battalion was near (Q5756).

(3) The enemy attacked the outposts of the 114th Infantry with mortar and machine gun fire. At 0020 the 1st Battalion was forced to withdraw under strong enemy pressure but reserve elements and tanks, with artillery and mortar support, counterattacked and by 0300 restored the original line with the 3d and 1st Battalion holding the line: (Q5057) - (Q5459) and the 2d Battalion in reserve near (Q5355).

(4) The 1st and 2d Battalions 253d Infantry moved to the vicinity of WITTRING (Q5750) and began to organize positions along the MAGINOT LINE at daylight. The 3d Battalion moved at 1512 to the vicinity of GROS REDERCHING (Q6252) where it was attached to the 71st Infantry.

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c. The 103d Infantry Division continued to improve its defensive positions with no change in the dispositions of its units. Front line elements dispatched patrols to the north but no enemy was encountered. The division sector was quiet with no reports of enemy artillery fire.

d. The 12th Armored Division established a counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE with elements of the 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (rein). The remainder of the division remained in the assembly areas of the previous day and continued a training, maintenance and rehabilitation program.

e. CCL 2d French Armored Division remained in its positions of the previous day and carried out a limited program of physical conditioning and training. The remainder of the division was enroute from the MOLSHEIM - MULHOUSE area.

f. CCA 14th Armored Division sent the 68th Armored Infantry Battalion and one platoon of Troop "C" 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron to establish a counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE. The remainder of CCA moved to the vicinity of DIEMERINGEN (Q5938), closing at 1635.

g. RCT 141 36th Infantry Division arrived in the vicinity of WAIDHALBACH (Q6236), closing at 2000. The remainder of the division carried out a program of training and rehabilitation in the vicinity of LORQUIN (Q4507).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group was attacked by a strong force of the enemy and after hard fighting was forced to withdraw approximately 2 kilometers.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was attacked just prior to the beginning of the period by an enemy force estimated at 200 to 300, supported by mortar and artillery fire. Troop "C" was forced to withdraw from the vicinity of (Q3174) to the vicinity of (Q3366) at 0130. Troop "B" moved to the high ground just south of LUDWEILER (Q3269) when the attack began and placed elements in position near (Q3266), cutting the approaches to the town from the east. Troop "A" received sporadic artillery fire but maintained its initial positions in the vicinity of GRANDE ROSSELLE (Q3567).

(2) The attack on the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron began just prior to daylight. Troop "C" withdrew elements from the vicinity of (Q3569) to the vicinity of FRIEDRICHWEILER (Q2871). Troop "C" was able to hold this position and at 0700 move forward to DIFFEREN (Q3071) and then to defensive positions near (Q3169) and (Q3269). Troop "B" received the brunt of the attack and was forced to withdraw from (Q3565) to the vicinity of (Q3270). Troop "A" held its positions just north of LUDWEILER (Q3269).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired 45 counterbattery and 50 prepared harassing and roadrunner missions during the night in the area north of REIDING (Q6555). Eight neutralization missions were fired on assembly areas in the vicinity of HASKIRCHEN (Q5629).

j. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery engaged hostile planes with claims of three enemy aircraft probably destroyed. A total of 75 field artillery missions were fired on targets of opportunity on the Corps front. A general harassing program was also fired.

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k. XV Corps Engineers constructed a one-way Class 40 steel stringer bridge to replace a treadway bridge near (Q4856).

1. XII Tactical Air Force flew 17 flights, totalling 204 sorties in support of XV Corps. 120 close-support missions and 84 long-range and interception missions were included. There were five flights in support of the 100th Infantry Division, 4 flights in support of the 44th Infantry Division and 1 flight in support of the 106th Cavalry Group. Twenty-seven enemy aircraft and numerous locomotives, railway cars, motor transport, guns and tanks were reported destroyed or damaged.

m. One hundred and seventeen prisoners were captured during the period: Corps troops captured 16, the 44th Infantry Division 22, the 100th Infantry Division 64, the 12th Armored Division 1, and the 103d Infantry Division 14.

2 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps maintained a defensive attitude along its entire front. The enemy continued to be aggressive and caused a slight withdrawal on the right of the Corps sector.

Operations Instructions 87, XV Corps, dated 21-0, 2 January were published and contained the following instructions:

Until divisions were ordered to withdraw by Corps to positions indicated in Operations Instructions 80 and Field Order 16, they were to continue to operate within boundaries designated by Field Order 15.

The 2d French Armored Division was directed to assemble in the area: (Q6620) - (Q6633) - (Q5836) - (Q5233) (Q4723) - (Q5417) - (Q6620) and assume the mission of CCA 14th Armored Division (to reconnoiter and prepare plans to counterattack in the direction: DRULINGEN - SARRE-UNION, or DRULINGEN - RAHLING). The division was also directed to block the passes through the VOSGES from LEISENTHAL - to PHALSBURG (incl) and to continue the counterreconnaissance screen, established east of the SARRE by CCA of the 12th Armored Division. CCA reverted to divisional control.

The 100th Infantry Division was directed to coordinate plans with the 45th Infantry Division (VI Corps) and to exploit any advantage which might result from the 45th Infantry Division attack to restore its main line of resistance.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued to defend and improve its defensive positions along its entire front. Strong enemy pressure and the continued withdrawal of Task Force HUDDLESTON (VI Corps) forced slight withdrawal in the right sector.

(1) During the morning, the left flank of the 3d Battalion 141st Infantry (attached to 100th Infantry Division) (Q7441) to (Q7445) was forced to retire to the high ground near (Q7446) in the face of enemy infantry and tank attacks. The enemy continued to apply pressure on the entire regimental front. The 1st Battalion at (Q731468) prepared to move forward to reinforce the left flank. The 2d Battalion held the line: (Q7444) to (Q7441) and the 3d Battalion held the line from (Q7447) to (Q7445).

(2) The 399th Infantry regrouped and reorganized its positions in order to tie in with the positions of the 2d Battalion which withdrew elements to the high ground at (Q7342) to provide better defense against infiltration. Elements of the

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3d Battalion withdrew about 300 yards, under strong enemy pressure. One company of the 141st Infantry was attached to the 3d Battalion to strengthen the battalion positions. The 399th Infantry had little contact with the enemy during the latter part of the period. At the close of the period the 3d Battalion was in position on the line: (Q7349) - (Q7247). The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q7449) - (Q7253) with the 1st Battalion on the left.

(3) The 398th Infantry remained in defensive positions. No enemy contact was made throughout the day. Moderate rocket and artillery fire fell in the regimental sector. Patrols failed to contact the enemy but heard vehicular movement to the north. Elements of the 3d Battalion were attached to the 3d Battalion 399th Infantry and went into position near (Q7448). The balance of the 3d Battalion 398th Infantry was in regimental reserve near (Q7050). The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q6955) - (Q7254) with the 1st Battalion on the left.

(4) Elements of the 2d Battalion 397th Infantry moved to forward defensive positions to protect the regiment's left flank. The 3d Battalion was attacked by an unknown number of enemy infantry supported by tanks. This attack was repulsed by small arms and artillery fire without loss of ground. The 1st Battalion maintained its positions at (Q6655) - (Q6355). At the end of the day the 2d Battalion was near (Q6453) and the 3d Battalion occupied the line: (Q6456) - (Q6656).

(5) The 255th Infantry continued to occupy and improve positions in its sector. No contact with the enemy was reported. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6251) - (Q5650). A few rounds of artillery fire fell in the 2d Battalion sector late in the day, the remainder of the front remained quiet. The 3d Battalion moved early in the day from MONTBRONN (Q6844) to SCHLITTVILLE (Q5946). The battalion again moved at 1800 to the vicinity of LAMBACH (Q7248) to reinforce the right flank of the 398th Infantry.

b. Enemy attacks made a slight penetration on the right of the 44th Infantry Division sector.

(1) At 0135 the 2d Battalion 71st Infantry received an attack from its rear and right flank by enemy that had infiltrated into its positions, forcing the battalion to withdraw to the north-south line through (Q628560). From this line the 2d Battalion covered the readjustment of the remainder of the regiment and then withdrew to regimental reserve near (Q6052). Isolated enemy groups were dislodged or destroyed. At 1005 the 3d Battalion 253d Infantry (attached) near (Q6155) was attacked by tanks and infantry and was forced to withdraw slightly; however, all positions were restored by 1145. The 2d Battalion 114th Infantry was attached to the 71st Infantry at 1620 and closed into an assembly area near (Q5655) at 2040. At the close of the period the line: (Q6353) - (Q6254) - (Q6155) - (Q5955) - (Q5956) was held with the 3d Battalion 253d Infantry on the right, the 1st Battalion 71st Infantry in the center, and the 3d Battalion 71st Infantry on the left.

(2) Elements of the 3d Battalion 324th Infantry, which were forced to withdraw a short distance at the end of the previous day, counterattacked at 0115 and regained the lost ground by 0600. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5856) - (Q5459) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion remained in the vicinity of (Q5656).

(3) The 2d Battalion 114th Infantry was attached to the 71st Infantry. The remainder of the regiment was subjected to sporadic artillery fire during the

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period but hold and improved the line: (Q5459) - (Q4957). No enemy contact was reported during the day or night.

(4) The 253d Infantry (less the 3d Battalion attached to the 71st Infantry) held the line: (Q5152) - (Q5650) in rear of the battle positions. Positions were improved and organized during the day.

c. The 103d Infantry Division conducted reconnaissance by patrols and platoon raids while continuing to improve positions.

(1) The 410th Infantry conducted a raid in platoon strength into the south part of LIXING-LES-ROUILLING (Q4662). The platoon killed 3 enemy and took one prisoner. Patrols which were sent out during the night did not contact the enemy. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q4160) - (Q4957) with the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q4256).

(2) A daylight raid in the vicinity of BEHREN-LES-FORBACH (Q4263) by a platoon of the 2d Battalion 411th Infantry, supported by tanks and artillery, resulted in the capture of 10 prisoners. The 1st Battalion remained near (Q6034) while the 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4160) - (Q3564).

(3) The 409th Infantry, in division reserve in the vicinity of (Q3452) continued to organize and improve switch positions in the division sector.

d. The 141st RCT 36th Infantry Division remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division. The 1st Battalion 142d Infantry was placed on an immediate alert to dispose of any enemy paratroopers landed in the Corps area. The remainder of the division continued training in the vicinity of SARTREBOURG (Q5015).

e. CCL 2d French Armored Division took over the counterreconnaissance screen from CCA 14th Armored Division in the region: BINING (Q6448) - ACHEN (Q5949) - WITTRING (Q5750). CCD 2d French Armored Division closed in an area east of DRULINGEN (Q6030) while CCV was enroute to that vicinity.

f. The 92d Reconnaissance Squadron (rein) 12th Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARTRE RIVER and south of the MAGNOT LINE and established contact with CCL 2d French Armored Division. The remainder of the division performed maintenance and conducted a rehabilitation program in the vicinity of DIEUZE.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group counterattacked to restore its original positions. Little progress was reported.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attacked with Troop "A" at 1345 from positions north of LUDWIGELER (Q3269) toward Hill 283 (Q3371). Though the attack was supported by an artillery preparation, heavy opposition from mortars, artillery and small arms forced the troop to withdraw to the vicinity of (Q3069). Troop "B" advanced to (Q3270) to support the attack of Troop "A" and to cover its withdrawal. Troop "C" recaptured and occupied WERGELIN (Q3172).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron defended and improved positions from (Q3369) to (Q3564). Sporadic artillery fire was received both day

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and night. Outposts remained in contact with enemy patrols; no clashes were reported.

h. XV Corps Artillery fired 36 counterbattery and 68 harassing and neutralization missions during the period. Twenty-three of the latter were unobserved and 45 were observed missions. An extensive harassing program was fired in the vicinity of OBERGAILBACH (Q6257).

i. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery claimed to have destroyed one enemy plane. Units also fired 32 harassing missions in field artillery role.

j. XV Corps Engineers constructed one-way trestle bridges near (Q2222) and (Q1721). Bridges in the vicinity of (Q3369), (Q5957) and (Q6155) were demolished.

k. XII Tactical Air Force flew 204 sorties in support of XV Corps; 36 in close support of 100th Infantry Division and 120 in close support of the 44th Infantry Division, bombing and strafing enemy infantry and tanks. Twelve planes bombed and strafed a fortified position near (Q3371) for the 106th Cavalry Group.

l. Ninety-one prisoners were captured in the Corps sector; the 44th Infantry Division captured 55, the 100th Infantry Division 31, the 103d Infantry Division 2 and Corps troops 3.

3 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps held firm. Three separate enemy attacks were either repulsed or the ground was regained before the close of the period.

Operations Instructions 88 XV Corps, dated 1400, 3 January directed the following:

(1) The 36th Infantry Division (less one PCT) to move from its assembly areas to the vicinity of MONTBRONN (Q6844) and upon arrival to prepare for an attack to the east.

(2) RCT 141 (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) to be released on Corps Order to the 36th Infantry Division in the vicinity of LEMBERG (Q7445).

Operations Instructions 89 XV Corps, dated 2030, 3 January 1945 ordered the 103d Infantry Division to relieve elements of the 106th Cavalry Group between the left boundary of the 103d Infantry Division and GRAND ROSSELLE (Q3567) (incl).

a. The enemy attacked both flanks of the 100th Infantry Division. Some ground was lost, but the lines were satisfactorily restored by the close of the period. Throughout the period moderate to strong hostile artillery fire fell within the sector, particularly in the vicinity of REISENTHAL (Q7241), SHIRESTAN (Q7242), LEMBERG (Q7445), ROHRBACH (Q6549) and MONTBRONN (Q6844).

(1) The 141st Infantry 36th Infantry Division (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) held the line: (Q7446) - (Q7441) with the 2d and 3d Battalions. The enemy attacked strongly in the vicinity of (Q7441) before noon, but the initial assaults were all repulsed. The attacks were repeated in the afternoon in the vicinity of SAURIENSBURG (Q7441) and were again repulsed. The 1st Battalion moved up and dug in on the line: (Q7347) - Road Junction (Q7444). Elements of the 1st Battalion reverted to regimental reserve at ENCHENBERG (Q7145) before the close of the period.

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(2) The sectors of the 1st and 2d Battalions 399th Infantry were quiet except for artillery fire. The dispositions of these battalions remained the same as for the previous period. Elements of the 3d Battalion established positions on the high ground in the vicinity of (Q7449), but were forced to withdraw to: (Q7252 - (Q7350) because of heavy rocket, artillery, and mortar fire. The 3d Battalion 255th Infantry (attached to the 399th Infantry) occupied positions in the vicinity of LAMBACH (Q7248) in regimental reserve. Patrols reported no contact with the enemy.

(3) No enemy attacks were launched against the 398th Infantry during the period. The sector was subjected to some artillery and mortar fire but the situation remained relatively quiet. Elements of the 3d Battalion 398th Infantry relieved elements of the 399th Infantry in the vicinity of (Q7049). The rest of the regiment remained in position; the 1st Battalion near (Q7155), the 2d Battalion near (Q7253), and the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q7051).

(4) The 2d Battalion 397th Infantry in the vicinity of (Q6452) received an anticipated attack at 0610 by approximately 200 infantry supported by tanks. A severe fight ensued with small arms and automatic weapons being employed at close quarters; some ground was lost but was recovered before the close of the period. The 3d Battalion received some tank fire and artillery fire but no ground attack. Its defensive position (Q6356) - (Q6655) remained intact. The 1st Battalion remained near (Q6754).

(5) Elements of the 1st and 2d Battalions 255th Infantry supported by CCL 2d French Armored Division launched a counterattack at 1130 against a force of 4 enemy tanks and approximately 150 infantry which had infiltrated through front lines into ACHEN (Q5949) earlier in the period. Advancing against strong rifle and machine gun fire, the town was recaptured and former positions restored. The 3d Battalion 255th Infantry remained attached to the 399th Infantry Regiment.

b. The enemy attacked the right flank of the 44th Infantry Division and some ground was lost. This ground was partially regained by the end of the period. The remainder of the division sector was relatively quiet, with only intermittent artillery fire falling in the area.

(1) At 0030 the 3d Battalion 253d Infantry (attached to the 71st Infantry) was strongly attacked by enemy infantry supported by tanks, and was forced to withdraw 2 kilometers to reorganize. The 2d Battalion 114th Infantry (also attached to the 71st Infantry) counterattacked and, although subjected to intense artillery and small arms fire, seized positions in the vicinity of (Q6054). The 2d Battalion 71st Infantry prepared to counterattack at 1015 to restore positions along the railroad vicinity of (Q6253) but was directed before the attack was under way to relieve elements of the 2d French Armored Division at GROS RIEDERCHING (Q6252). The 1st and 3d Battalion 71st Infantry continued to improve their positions on the line: (Q5954) - (Q5855), the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) The situation remained fairly quiet in the sector of the 114th Infantry. Light intermittent artillery fire fell in the area during the period. Mortar fire was placed on a factory near (Q5258) forcing the enemy into the open where he was subjected to small arms and automatic weapons fire and some casualties inflicted. The 1st and 3d Battalion (the 1st Battalion on the right) held their

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positions on the line: (Q5855) - (Q4956). The 2d Battalion remained attached to the 71st Infantry Regiment.

(3) The 1st Battalion 324th Infantry remained in reserve in the vicinity of (Q5855), and the 2d and 3d Battalions (the 2d Battalion on the right) improved their defenses on the line: (Q5856) - (Q5359).

(4) The 253d Infantry continued improving its defensive positions. Throughout the period the situation remained comparatively quiet. The 1st and 2d Battalions hold the line: (Q5650) - (Q5052); the 3d Battalion remained attached to the 71st Infantry.

c. The sector of the 103d Infantry Division was comparatively quiet. Patrols were sent out and defensive positions were improved.

(1) The 1st Battalion 410th Infantry relieved the 3d Battalion on the line: (Q4160) - (Q4660); the 3d Battalion reverting to regimental reserve in the vicinity of (Q5257). The 2d Battalion hold the remainder of the regimental line: (Q4660) - (Q4957).

(2) The 411th Infantry remained on the alert for an attack which did not materialize. The 2d and 3d Battalions (2d Battalion on the right) held the line: (Q4160) - (Q3563) with the 1st Battalion in regimental reserve near (Q3560).

(3) The 409th Infantry, in division reserve, continued work on rear positions. The 1st Battalion near (Q3847) maintained guards on assigned bridges; the 2d Battalion improved defenses near (Q3156) and the 3d Battalion developed the Regimental Reserve line in the vicinity of (Q3452).

(4) The 103d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Q3565) began the relief of elements of the 106th Cavalry Group between the left boundary of the 103d Infantry Division and GRAND ROSSELLE (incl).

d. The 142d Infantry Regiment and 143d Infantry Regiment of the 36th Infantry Division closed in assembly areas in the vicinity of LONTBRONN (Q6844), and conducted limited training during remainder of period.

c. The 2d French Armored Division attacked to eliminate the enemy penetration south of GROS REDERCHING.

(1) CCL counterattacked at 1030 from KALHAUSEN (Q5747) in conjunction with elements of the 255th Infantry Regiment to capture ACHEN (Q5949) and by the close of the period had secured the town. Task Force LAMONNET attacked at 1230 towards GROS REDERCHING against medium resistance and occupied the town by 1630.

(2) CCD patrolled the roads between LIEBERG (Q7445) and LA PETITE PIERRE (Q6929) maintaining contact with both the 100th Infantry Division and elements of the VI Corps in the VOSGES.

(3) CCV regrouped in the vicinity of (Q5530).

(4) CCR moved to the vicinity of (Q5519) closing by the end of the period.

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f. The 92d Reconnaissance Squadron (rein) of the 12th Armored Division maintained a counterreconnaissance screen west of the SAARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE. The remainder of the division conducted training and performed maintenance in assembly areas: CCA in the vicinity of (Q2830), CCB near (Q2524), and CCR near (Q3935).

g. The 106th Cavalry Group attacked and partially regained ground previously relinquished.

(1) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attacked from northwest of LUDWIGER (Q3269) to reach the WERBELIN (Q3172) - SCHAFFHAUSEN (Q3273) road, but were unable to reach SCHAFFHAUSEN because of strong enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire. Troop "C" counterattacked in the vicinity of (Q3370) but was forced to withdraw because of intense artillery fire.

(2) Elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron were relieved by the 103d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop. Troop "B" 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron launched a counterattack at 1600 towards (Q3370) but intense enemy artillery fire compelled this unit to withdraw to original positions.

h. XV Corps Artillery fired 16 counterbattery missions and a series of counterpreparation missions in the area of GROS REDERCHING and BLIESBRUCKEN (Q6056). Enemy artillery activity decreased considerably from the previous period, though the usual practice of harassing towns continued. BINING (Q6448), ROHRBACH-LES-BITCHE (Q6549) and GUIRING (Q6552) were shelled.

i. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 2-span steel stringer bridge in the vicinity of (Q5653), replaced a 60 foot Bailey Bridge with a one-way Class 40 steel stringer bridge near (Q4248) and replaced a Bailey Bridge with a one-way Class 40 steel stringer bridge near (Q2841).

j. Five hundred heavy bombers of the XII Tactical Air Force bombed PIRMASENS (Q9167), ZWIEBRUCKEN (Q7272), HOMBERG (Q7181), KAISERLAUTERN (R0274). Adverse weather conditions prevented close support of the XV Corps.

i. One hundred forty six prisoners were captured in the XV Corps area: the 36th Infantry Division captured 31, the 44th Infantry Division 15, the 100th Infantry Division 71, the 103d Infantry Division 26, and Corps troops 3.

4 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its efforts to regain overrun positions of its original main line of resistance, while enemy pressure on the right of sector continued. Operations Instructions 90 XV Corps dated 1000, 4 January authorized the 44th Infantry Division to use the 253d Infantry Regiment to relieve elements of the 114th Infantry. The 100th Infantry Division was authorized to employ the 255th Infantry Regiment to relieve the 398th Infantry. Operations Instructions 91 XV Corps dated 1500, 4 January ordered the 36th Infantry Division to relieve the 100th Infantry Division at once south of the line: (Q6446) - (Q6647) - (Q6947) - (Q7046) - (Q7647) - (Q7748), with not to exceed one RCT. The 141st RCT reverted to the 36th Infantry Division.

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a. The 36th Infantry Division (less 141st RCT) closed into MONTBRONN (Q6844) at 0700. At 1230 an attack was launched against stiff small arms resistance to secure the hill near (Q7443), but before the objective could be attained an enemy counterattack forced a slight withdrawal. The attack was renewed in the afternoon and the hill at (Q743432) was taken.

b. The 100th Infantry Division held its positions, but made minor changes in positions to protect its flanks.

(1) The 141st Infantry Regiment reverted to the control of the 36th Infantry Division.

(2) Only active patrolling took place in the 399th Infantry sector. The 1st Battalion was located in the vicinity of (Q7450), the 2d Battalion near (Q7352) and the 3d Battalion near (Q7348). The 3d Battalion 255th Infantry attached remained in reserve positions in the vicinity of LAMBACH (Q7248).

(3) The 1st and 2d Battalions of the 398th Infantry held the line: (Q695 - (Q7353) with the 1st Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (Q7051). Sporadic enemy artillery and rocket fire fell in the sector.

(4) The 397th Infantry defended its positions and shifted some positions to cover an exposed left flank. The 1st Battalion was located near (Q6855), the 2d Battalion near (Q6352), and the 3d Battalion covered the line (Q6353) - (Q6456) - (Q6655).

(5) Elements of the 2d Battalion 255th Infantry supported by 5 tanks cleared ACHEN (Q6049) of remaining isolated points of resistance and together with the 1st Battalion held the line: (Q6350) - (Q6150) - (Q5750). The 3d Battalion was attached to the 399th Infantry.

c. Activity in the sector of the 44th Infantry Division was marked by strong enemy resistance. Unsuccessful attempts were made to take FRAUENBERG (Q5559) and to relieve elements of the 2d French Armored Division in GROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

(1) The 2d Battalion 71st Infantry attempted to relieve those elements of the 2d French Armored Division in GROS REDERCHING (Q6252), but after receiving considerable small arms, mortar and tank fire from an enemy roadblock near (Q6252) the Battalion withdrew to the vicinity of (Q5952). The Battalion then attempted to move toward ACHEN, but first had to clear the enemy from the woods in the vicinity of (Q5951). At 1710 the Battalion reverted to regimental reserve near (Q5650). The 3d Battalion 253d Infantry (attached to the 71st Infantry) established a roadblock at (Q613510). The Battalion then attacked, seized positions at (Q6153) - (Q6050), and sent patrols into GROS REDERCHING. The 2d Battalion 114th Infantry (also attached to the 71st Infantry) took positions near (Q6153). The 1st and 3d Battalions 71st Infantry maintained the line: (Q5954) - (Q5855) with the 1st Battalion on the right.

(2) The 114th Infantry (less the 2d Battalion) was relieved by the 253d Infantry and went into reserve in the vicinity of (Q500550).

(3) The 324th Infantry received considerable shelling in its sector. At 0430 elements of the 3d Battalion with 2 tanks in support attempted to clear hostile elements from FRAUENBERG (Q5559) but were unsuccessful. The 1st Battalion

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was in the vicinity of (Q6855), while the 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5856) - (Q5359).

(4) The 253d Infantry relieved the 114th Infantry in position. At the close of the period the 1st and 2d Battalions 253d Infantry held the line: (Q5650) - (Q5052) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion continued attached to the 71st Infantry.

d. The 103d Infantry Division continued to improve its positions and patrol its front.

(1) The 1st Battalion 410th Infantry held positions from (Q4160) to (Q4660), the 2d Battalion held the line: (Q4660) to (Q4957), and the 3d Battalion was in position in the vicinity of (Q5257).

(2) Elements of the 411th Infantry made raids on BEHREN-LES-FORBACH (Q4263) and captured 1 prisoner. The 1st Battalion was near (Q3560), the 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4160) - (Q3563) with the 3d Battalion on the left.

(3) The 1st Battalion 409th Infantry guarded the bridges in the vicinity of (Q3847), the 2d Battalion was near (Q3156), and the 3d Battalion near (Q3452).

(4) The 103d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron completed the relief of remaining elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in position between the 103d Infantry Division boundary and GRAND ROSSELLE (Q3568) incl.

e. The 2d French Armored Division continued on its screening and patrol missions.

(1) Elements of CCL holding GROS REDERCHING were attacked by the enemy in American tanks, and were forced to withdraw to positions south of the town near (Q6249).

(2) CCD continued to patrol the roads from LEMBERG (Q7445) to LA PETITE PIERRE (Q6927).

(3) CCV continued reorganization in the vicinity of (Q5530).

(4) CCR was located near (Q3935).

f. The 12th Armored Division continued to maintain the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SAPRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE with the 92d Reconnaissance Squadron (rein).

(1) CCA was located near (Q2830).

(2) CCB was in the vicinity of (Q2524).

(3) CCR was near (E3835).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 32 counterbattery missions; 87 harassing, interdiction, neutralization and destruction missions; and 51 concentrations on suspected enemy installations during the period.

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h. The 106th Cavalry Group outposted positions and maintained patrolling.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled and outposted positions along the main road near (Q3370).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron outposted positions near (Q3370), (Q3368), (Q3366), (Q3267) and (Q3269). Remaining elements occupying positions between the left boundary of the 103d Infantry Division and GRAND ROSSEL were relieved by elements of the 103d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop.

i. XV Corps Engineers removed treadway bridges near (Q5653), (Q2222), (Q1721) and replaced the one near (Q5653) with a Bailey.

j. XII Tactical Air Force flew 9 flights in the XV Corps sector; 60 sorties were flown for the 100th Infantry Division in the area around BITCHE, 24 sorties for the 44th Infantry Division in the OBERGAILBACH (Q6258) area. ZEEBRUCKEN (Q7362), NEUNKIRCHEN (Q6034), PIRMASENS (Q9067), and ST WENDEL (R5997) were all heavily bombed.

k. One hundred and ninety-two prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector; the 44th Infantry Division captured 64 prisoners, the 2d French Armored Division 62, the 100th Infantry Division 53, the 36th Infantry Division 7, the 103d Infantry Division 4, and Corps troops 2.

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XV Corps continued defending its sector with only minor contacts with the enemy. Hostile artillery continued to harass the Corps sector with intermittent fire. GROS REDERCHING (Q6252) and FRAUENBERG (Q5559) were retaken. Operations Instructions 92 XV Corps, dated 5 January 1945 confirmed verbal instructions that to prevent interference with counterattack plans, demolitions along roads in the 100th, 44th, and 103d Infantry Division sectors would be executed only by personal order of the division commander after concurrence by the Commanding General 2d French Armored Division and Commanding General 12th Armored Division.

a. There was little activity in the sector of the 36th Infantry Division with the exception of one small arms fight.

(1) The 141st Infantry maintained its defensive positions in the LEMBERG (Q8744) - GOETZENBRUCK (Q7341) sector. The 3d Battalion became involved in a small arms fight, but no ground was lost. At the close of the period the regiment was being relieved by the 142d Infantry with the 1st Battalion near (Q7245), the 2d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q7443), and the 3d Battalion on the line (Q7446) - (Q7341).

(2) The 142d Infantry remained in its assembly areas of the previous day for the greater part of the period. Under cover of darkness the regiment began the relief of the 141st Regiment in position. The 1st Battalion 142d Infantry was near (Q7242), the 2d Battalion near (Q7040), and the 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q6946).

(3) The 143d Infantry remained in division reserve at MONTEBRONN (Q6844) and conducted unit training.

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b. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission throughout the period. The situation continued quiet with the enemy maintaining a passive attitude.

(1) Patrols of the 399th Infantry were active during the day and night. The regiment received mortar fire near (Q7447) and fire from a self-propelled gun from REYERSVILLER (Q7549). Occasional artillery fire fell in the regimental area. The 1st Battalion held positions near (Q7440), the 2d Battalion near (Q7452) and the 3d Battalion near (Q7347). The 2d Battalion 398th Infantry (attached to the 399th Infantry) near (Q6851) prepared to relieve the 3d Battalion 255th Infantry. The 2d Battalion 255th Infantry remained in reserve positions near LAMBACH (Q7248).

(2) The 398th Infantry maintained its positions and patrolled the sector to its front. Intermittent rocket and artillery fire were received in the regimental sector. The 3d Battalion relieved elements of the 255th Infantry near (Q6851). The 2d Battalion was attached to the 399th Infantry.

(3) There was no change in the sector of the 397th Infantry; units adjusted and improved positions. All three battalions were on the line: (Q6854) - (Q6655) - (Q6656) - (Q6456) - (Q6351) with the 2d Battalion on the left, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the right.

(4) The 1st and 2d Battalions 255th Infantry held the line: (Q6351) - (Q5750). Preparations were made to relieve the 398th Infantry. The 3d Battalion was attached to the 399th Infantry.

c. The 44th Infantry Division held its positions in the left of its sector and made a local counterattack in the right of its sector. Light hostile artillery fire fell in the area being confined primarily to front line units. The enemy maintained a strictly defensive attitude throughout the period.

(1) The 114th Infantry moved units into position for an attack on 6 January. The 3d Battalion moved at 0800 to the vicinity of WIESVILLER (Q5833) and closed at 1015. The 1st Battalion moved at 0900 to an assembly area in the vicinity of DIEDING (Q5551) and closed at 1100, and then to an assembly area in the vicinity of GROS REDERCHING (Q6252) and closed at 2200. At 1200, the 114th Infantry assumed command of the 71st Infantry sector including the 1st and 3d Battalions 71st Infantry and the 3d Battalion 253d Infantry. This latter unit was in the process of securing the high ground north of GROS REDERCHING. The 2d Battalion was near (Q6953).

(2) The 1st and 3d Battalions 71st Infantry continued to hold defensive positions on the line: (Q6054) - (Q5855). The 3d Battalion 253d Infantry, attached to the 71st Infantry, was moving to secure GROS REDERCHING. At 1200 the sector passed to the command of the 114th Infantry including all units except the 2d Battalion 71st Infantry which had moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of SILTZHEIM (Q5351) and closed at 1630.

(3) The 324th Infantry sector was subjected to sporadic artillery fire throughout the period. At 0001 the 3d Battalion conducted a raid to mop up FRAUENBERG (Q5539). After one hour's fighting and considerable resistance, the town had been completely cleared, 11 prisoners captured and an uncertain number of

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casualties inflicted. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q5951) - (Q5459).

(4) The 253d Infantry organized and improved its positions with the 1st and 2d Battalions holding the line: (Q5459) - (Q4957). The 3d Battalion was attached to the 114th Infantry.

d. The 103d Infantry Division improved its positions and developed plans for an opposed and unopposed withdrawal should the situation require.

(1) The 410th Infantry was alerted for an attack which failed to materialize. Reconnaissance patrols were active throughout the period. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line (Q4957) - (Q4260). The 1st Battalion remained in reserve near (Q4257).

(2) The 411th Infantry improved frontline and rear positions with the 2d and 3d Battalions on the line: (Q4260) - (Q3646), and the 1st Battalion in reserve near (Q3457).

(3) The 409th Infantry in division reserve improved the new main line of resistance within its sector and began work on an alternate line of resistance. The 1st Battalion was located in the vicinity of (Q3847), the 2d Battalion near (Q3156), and the 3d Battalion near (Q3452).

e. There was no change in the dispositions of the 2d French Armored Division units.

(1) CCL remained in the vicinity of (Q6038) and maintained contact with the 44th and the 100th Infantry Divisions.

(2) CCD covered the VOSGES passes against infiltration.

(3) CCV was in the area (Q5336).

(4) CCR was located near (Q5519).

f. The 12th Armored Division utilized the 92d Reconnaissance Squadron (rein) to maintain the screen west of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(1) CCA was in the vicinity of (Q2830).

(2) CCB was located near (Q2524).

(3) CCR was at (Q394356).

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g. The 106th Cavalry Group continued its defensive mission without change in the dispositions of its squadrons and maintained close contact with the enemy.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron dispatched dismounted patrols into the area (Q3368) - (Q3172), and maintained contact with the 95th Infantry Division (XX Corps).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved its defenses by laying mines, constructing roadblocks and laying tactical wire. Dismounted patrols reconnoitered to the front from (Q3465) - (Q3368).

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h. XV Corps Artillery fired 14 counterbattery, 58 observed, and 33 unobserved missions. 6 harassing missions were fired south of ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7143) and 5 roadrunner missions were fired north of RILLING (Q6555).

i. The XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road and bridge maintenance. Additional demolitions were emplaced in the sector.

j. XII Tactical Air Force flew 132 sorties in support of XV Corps. Fifteen tanks were reported destroyed near ZWELBRUCKEN (Q7372); troop concentrations were attacked with reported excellent results; 8 motor transports were reported destroyed; marshalling yards at KAISERLAUTERN (R0294) were attacked with good results; the ST LOUIS les BITCHE area was bombed; and reported heavy damage was inflicted on troop concentrations and supply installations in ST WENDEL (Q4167).

k. Seventy-one prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector; Corps troops captured 4, 2d French Armored Division 30, 12th Armored Division 1, 36th Infantry Division 7, 44th Infantry Division 11, 100th Infantry Division 17, and the 103d Infantry Division 1.

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XV Corps continued on the defensive and organized and improved its positions. The 44th Infantry Division launched an attack in its sector in an effort to restore its original Main Line of Resistance. The enemy remained alert and reacted strongly to any aggressive action on the part of the Corps.

Operations Instructions 93 XV Corps, dated 6 January was issued during the day. Announcement was made that the 12th Armored Division passed from XV Corps to VI Corps on verbal orders of the Commanding General Seventh Army, effective 1800, 6 January (1)* These orders were confirmed by Operations Instructions 56 Seventh Army, dated 7 January 1945. Operations Instructions 93 XV Corps designated the boundary between the 36th and 100th Infantry Divisions as the line: (Q7576) - (Q7146) - (Q7047) - (Q6745) - (Q6544) - (Q6443) - (Q6240). The Commanding General 36th Infantry Division was instructed that no part of his division would be committed in offensive action without prior approval of the Commanding General XV Corps in each instance. This action was taken to comply with oral instructions of the Commanding General Seventh Army. The Commanding General 36th Infantry Division was made responsible for demolitions within his sector (2).

a. The 36th Infantry Division, utilizing one Regimental Combat Team, continued to occupy, organize and improve its sector. No enemy contact was reported during the period.

(1) The 141st Infantry was relieved of its defensive mission in the LEMBERG (Q7844) - GOETZENBRUCK (Q7341) sector, under cover of darkness, by the 142d Infantry. The 141st Infantry closed in a rear assembly area in the vicinity of MONTERONN (Q6844) by 0005 and started a rehabilitation and limited training program.

(2) The 142d Infantry after completing the relief of the 141st Infantry occupied, adjusted and improved defensive positions in the sector throughout the day. No enemy contact was reported. Patrols were dispatched to the front to investigate enemy dispositions and strength.

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(3) The 143d Infantry remained in division reserve in the vicinity of MONTBRONN (Q6844) and conducted small unit training throughout the period.

b. The 100th Infantry Division continued to organize and improve its defensive positions. Minor changes in dispositions was made in order to provide relief for front line elements.

(1) The 399th Infantry remained in and continued work on its defensive positions occupied the previous day. Intermittent artillery fire was received throughout the day in the 2d and 3d Battalion sectors. Strong patrols were sent out in the vicinity of REYERSVILLER (Q7449) but were forced to withdraw in the face of machine gun fire. The 2d Battalion 398th Infantry, attached to the 399th Infantry, was relieved by the 2d Battalion 255th Infantry in position by 0900. The 2d Battalion 398th Infantry upon being relieved moved to the vicinity of WITTRING (Q5751) and relieved the 3d Battalion 255th Infantry in position in the MAGINOT LINE by 1225.

(2) The 398th Infantry, less the 2d Battalion, moved during hours of darkness from west of BITCHE (Q7750) to positions in the vicinity of ACHEN (Q5949) and closed in the new area by 0800. The 3d Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion and the 2d Battalion 255th Infantry in position in the MAGINOT LINE by 2130. The 1st Battalion remained in the ACHEN area and continued training and rehabilitation activities.

(3) The 397th Infantry continued to defend along the front line positions of the previous period. Work on improvement of positions was continued. At 1244 enemy tanks and infantry were observed concentrating in the woods in the vicinity of (Q6355). This concentration was fired upon by artillery and mortars, and the enemy was dispersed. Some enemy artillery fire was received during the latter part of the period and one of our medium tanks in the vicinity of (Q643542) was knocked out by a direct hit. The 2d Battalion relieved elements of the 3d Battalion in the front line. The 3d Battalion, less one company, moved to regimental reserve near (Q6331). The 1st Battalion remained in the same positions as those on the previous day.

(4) The 1st and 2d Battalions 255th Infantry upon being relieved from positions in the MAGINOT LINE by the 3d Battalion 398th Infantry moved by motor in the early morning under the cover of darkness from KALHAUSEN (Q5847) to PETIT-REDERCHING (Q6851). The 1st and 2d Battalions then moved by marching to the sector assigned the 398th Infantry and relieved front line elements of the 398th Infantry by 0900; at which time the command of the sector passed to the Commanding Officer 255th Infantry. The 3d Battalion 255th Infantry upon being relieved by the 2d Battalion 398th Infantry, moved to reserve positions in the vicinity of PETIT-REDERCHING, closing by 1500. Front line elements of the regiment, upon occupation of the defensive positions, worked on the organization, adjustment and improvement of positions throughout the day. Scattered mortar and artillery fire were received late in the period.

c. The 44th Infantry Division attacked in the right portion of its sector with one regiment to restore its original Main Line of Resistance. The positions on the left of the division sector were maintained and improved during the period. All available weapons were fired in support of the attack on the right. Although the enemy remained on the defensive, he reacted strongly to the attack and defended tenaciously.

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(1) The 114th Infantry attacked at 0800 with three battalions abreast (the 1st, 2d and 3d from right to left). The 1st Battalion advanced toward its initial objective in the vicinity of GROS REDERCHING (Q6252) against strong small arms resistance prior to noon, but was unable to advance further due to a threat by enemy tanks and infantry on its left flank. This threat was broken up during a later part of the period by artillery fire. The 2d Battalion, in its advance, immediately encountered stiff resistance from small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and artillery fire. Elements reached the edge of the woods near (Q6155) and BRANDELFINGERHOF FARM (Q6154) where heavy automatic weapon and artillery fire prevented further advance. During the afternoon a determined enemy counterattack, estimated at a battalion of infantry supported by several tanks, forced the battalion to withdraw to its original positions. The 3d Battalion passed through the 1st and 2d Battalions 71st Infantry and advanced against stiff enemy resistance to the vicinity of (Q5956) by 1200. At 1300 the enemy counterattacked with an estimated reinforced company supported by numerous halftracks, and after stiff fighting the leading elements of 3d Battalion were forced to withdraw to their line of departure. The battalion reorganized and several times attempted to advance, but stiff and determined enemy resistance prevented any appreciable forward movement. At the close of the day, the 3d Battalion was in the process of completing the relief of the 1st and 3d Battalions of the 71st Infantry. The 1st and 3d Battalions 71st Infantry, attached to the 114th Infantry, remained in defensive positions throughout the day and fired in support of the attack of the 114th Infantry. At 1300 the bulk of the 3d Battalion 253d Infantry (attached to the 114th Infantry), moved from the vicinity of GROS REDERCHING to a support position on the right of the 2d Battalion 114th Infantry, with elements also in a support position on the right of the 1st Battalion 114th Infantry.

(2) The 71st Infantry (less the 1st and 3d Battalions) remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of SILTZHEIM (Q5351) and conducted a training and rehabilitation program.

(3) The 324th Infantry continued to occupy and improve its defensive positions of the previous period. The regiment fired all available weapons in support of the attack of the 114th Infantry. Sporadic artillery fire was received in the regimental sector.

(4) The 253d Infantry continued to improve its defenses with no change in positions from those of the previous period.

d. The 103d Infantry Division continued to improve and adjust its defensive positions and to conduct reconnaissance for the establishment of positions in the secondary MAGINOT LINE. Day and night raids in company strength were made in enemy territory in addition to normal night patrol activity.

(1) The 410th Infantry remained in its defensive positions of the previous period and continued work on the improvement of those positions. At 1740 a reinforced company of the 3d Battalion conducted a raid on the LIXING-IES-ROUHLING (Q4662) area, captured five prisoners and knocked out a machine gun position without suffering casualties.

(2) The 411th Infantry remained in the positions of the previous period and further improved its defensive positions. At 0015 a reinforced company conducted a raid in the vicinity of FORBACH (Q3965). Enemy resistance was encountered near (Q3764) and the company withdrew to its own lines.

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(3) The 2d and 3d Battalions 409th Infantry continued to work on secondary positions in the division rear area. The 1st Battalion tested weapons and conducted practice firing during the period.

e. The 2d French Armored Division remained in Corps reserve in the same assembly area previously occupied. Routes were reconnoitered to the north in preparation for movement of the division in case of an enemy threat from that area and the division continued to guard the VOSGES passes against enemy infiltration and maintained a counterreconnaissance screen of the SARRE and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

f. The 12th Armored Division maintained a counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE. No contact with enemy elements was made. A program of training and maintenance was conducted during the day for those units not engaged on the counterreconnaissance mission. The Division passed to the control of VI Corps at 1800 but continued to maintain the counterreconnaissance screen until relieved by elements of the 2d French Armored Division.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired a counterbattery program on 17 enemy batteries and 27 additional counterbattery missions. Eight observed missions were fired on tanks, infantry and assembly areas on the 44th Infantry Division front. Approximately 120 prepared harassing missions were fired in the area of RIMLING (Q6555) and south of BITCHE, on three CPs west of RIMLING, on a gas dump at ALTHEIM (Q6963) and on vehicular traffic north of SARREGUEMINES (Q8157).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to maintain and improve its defenses. Outposts and patrols reported no contact with the enemy.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied defensive positions, manned outposts and improved positions. Mines were laid and tactical wire installed along the front.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its defenses. Movement of enemy vehicles was reported, but no contact with the enemy was made.

i. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road maintenance and sanding of critical points. A Bailey bridge near (Q2649) was replaced with a culvert, and a 70 foot Bailey bridge near (Q2451) was replaced with a four-span steel stringer bridge.

j. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish XV Corps with air support because of poor visibility during the entire period.

k. One hundred and twenty-four prisoners were captured in the Corps sector; the 44th Infantry Division captured 98, the 103d Infantry Division 5, the 100th Infantry Division 13, the 36th Infantry Division 1, and Corps troops 7.

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XV Corps continued to occupy and improve its defensive positions. Contact with the enemy was maintained through patrols alone, except for one minor attack made by the enemy upon positions in the 44th Infantry Division sector. Most of the Corps front was subjected to intermittent artillery and mortar shelling.

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Operations Instructions 95 XV Corps dated 2130, 7 January announced the immediate change of boundaries between XV and VI Corps as follows: LOHR (Q6328) to XV Corps; BUST (Q6325), HANGVILLER (Q6223), BERLING (Q6322), VILSBERG (Q6420) all to VI Corps.

a. The 36th Infantry Division continued to hold its defensive positions in the LEMBERG (Q7445) sector with the 142d Infantry. Reconnaissance patrols contacted the enemy near (Q7445) and (Q7446), but the front was very quiet with no aggressive acts on the part of the enemy. The division, less 142d RCT, remained in reserve in the vicinity of MONTEBRONN (Q6844) and continued its limited training program.

b. The 100th Infantry Division maintained and improved its defensive position. The enemy was not aggressive but contact was maintained with him through patrols. Intermittent rocket, artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the day.

(1) The hostile situation in the sector of the 399th Infantry Regiment continued relatively quiet throughout the period. No artillery fire was received but moderate rocket and mortar fire fell in the sector. Contact with the enemy was maintained by patrols. An estimated seven man enemy patrol was dispersed by an outpost of the 1st Battalion near (Q747502). At 2300 a combat patrol of one platoon raided SCHORBACH (Q7653) and returned with negative results. The dispositions of the regiment remained the same as for the previous period. Battalions continued to work on improving and strengthening their respective sectors.

(2) The 255th Infantry, attached to the 100th Infantry Division, continued to maintain and improve its positions which remained the same as for the previous period. Considerable enemy artillery fire was received throughout the sector. No enemy ground action was reported.

(3) The 397th Infantry dispatched patrols to its front and to the flanks but no contact was made with the enemy. Moderate artillery and mortar fire was received in the sector throughout the day. Dispositions of the regiment remained the same as for the previous period.

(4) The 398th Infantry maintained its defensive positions in the MAGINOT LINE. Gun emplacements in the sector were adjusted to improve the defensive fires but no change was made in the dispositions of the units which remained the same as for the previous period. No contact with the enemy was reported.

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued to hold and improve its defensive positions. The enemy became more aggressive during the period, making a minor attack in the sector of the 114th Infantry and coming under observation at other points. Sporadic small arms, mortar and artillery fire was received during the period.

(1) The 114th Infantry, with the 1st and 3d Battalions 71st Infantry and the 3d Battalion 253d Infantry attached, maintained and improved its positions during the day. The 2d Battalion was attacked at 0400 in the vicinity of (Q6055) by an estimated company of infantry but the attack was repulsed, primarily by concentrated artillery and mortar fire. The 1st Battalion was located near (Q6253), the 3d Battalion near (Q6953) and the 3d Battalion 253d Infantry near (Q6252). All

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units continued to advance and improve their positions. The 3d Battalion 71st Infantry reverted to regimental control at 1100. The 1st Battalion remained attached to the 114th Infantry, in reserve at WEISVILLER (Q5954).

(2) Sporadic artillery fire was received in the sector of the 324th Infantry. Enemy units observed were fired on by artillery, mortars and tanks, but no close contact was made with the enemy. No change was made in the dispositions of the regiment which remained the same as for the previous period.

(3) The 253d Infantry, less the 3d Battalion, continued its preparations of main defensive positions and reconnoitered for positions to be organized on the RRL. There was no contact with the enemy during the period. Dispositions remained the same as for the previous period.

(4) The 3d Battalion 71st Infantry was relieved from attachment to the 114th Infantry at 1100 and moved to the vicinity of ST MICHEL (Q5246) closing at 1310. The 71st Infantry, less the 1st Battalion which was attached to the 114th Infantry, engaged in rehabilitation activities and reconnoitered for a new main line of resistance. The 2d Battalion was located near (Q5351) and the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q5247).

d. The 103d Infantry Division continued to improve its defensive positions. The entire sector was very quiet; no enemy contact was made throughout the period. The disposition of units remained the same as for the previous period.

e. The 2d French Armored Division continued its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE and blocked the western exits of the VOSGES passes. Elements of the division made preparations to relieve the 12th Armored Division of its mission of maintaining the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE. The remainder of the division remained in the same assembly areas as those of the previous day, conducting a limited training program.

f. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained and improved its positions. The front was quiet with no contact with the enemy. Troops were rotated to provide rest and rehabilitation.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved positions within its sector, and maintained contact with the 95th Infantry Division on its left. The sector was quiet throughout the period.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued work on positions in its sector. Elements relieved the 165th Engineer Battalion of guarding prepared demolitions north of the ST AVOLD (Q2556) - FORBACH (Q3965) road. The sector was quiet; no contact was made with the enemy.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 38 counterbattery missions including a counterbattery program on 17 enemy artillery batteries in the area north of RIMLING (Q6555). A harassing program was fired throughout the day on suspected enemy assembly areas to the front of the 44th Infantry Division. Ten harassing missions were fired during the night in the vicinity of ERCHING (Q6557).

h. XV Corps Engineers maintained bridges and roads in the Corps area. Bailey bridges near (Q2449), (Q5146), and (Q1848) were in the process of being replaced by steel stringer bridges. A 24-foot treadway bridge near (Q3035) was replaced by a culvert.

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i. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to fly any missions in support of XV Corps because of poor visibility.

j. Forty-six prisoners were captured in the Corps sector; Corps troops captured 1 prisoner; the 44th Infantry Division 28, the 100th Infantry Division 8, and the 103d Infantry Division 9.

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XV Corps continued to maintain and improve its defensive positions. A limited objective attack made on the right of the Corps sector was successful. The remainder of the front remained quiet except for a local enemy attack and penetration at RIMLING (Q6555). The enemy was alert and strongly resisted every offensive effort. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was received intermittently all along the Corps front throughout the entire day.

a. The 36th Infantry Division made a limited objective attack to improve its defensive positions, employing one regimental combat team. Moderate resistance was encountered. The division, less the 142d RCT conducted a rehabilitation and training program in the vicinity of MONTERONN (Q6844).

(1) The 142d Infantry attacked at 0800 with the 3d Battalion leading and with the 1st and 2d Battalions following in echelon to the left rear. Good progress was made against moderate resistance from enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire, and by 1345 the objective (Q7446) was attained. Work was immediately begun on defensive positions. At the close of period the 2d Battalion was near (Q7246) and the 3d Battalion near (Q7444).

b. The 100th Infantry Division held its positions on the left of the sector and made a limited objective attack on its right. Enemy resistance was strong but objectives were reached and held against counterattacks. An enemy attack on RIMLING early in the day was stopped after the north half of the town had been overrun.

(1) Commencing at 2315 on 7 January, elements of the 2d Battalion 399th Infantry attempted to raid SCHORBACH (Q7653), but were turned back by heavy machine gun fire. The 2d and 3d Battalions 399th Infantry supported by the 2d Battalion 398th Infantry attacked at 0745 following an artillery preparation. Considerable mortar and small arms fire was received, but by 1100 the leading elements were on the objective in the vicinity of (Q7547). Two enemy counterattacks, estimated at 50 men each were repulsed during the afternoon. By 1800 the objective, high ground in the vicinity of SIGNALBERG (Q7448) and SPITZBERG (Q7548) were secured. The 1st Battalion held its positions in the vicinity of (Q7450) throughout the day.

(2) Positions of the 255th Infantry were adjusted and improved with no change being made in the dispositions of the units. The front was quiet with no hostile activity.

(3) Intermittent artillery fire was received throughout the sector of the 397th Infantry during the period. At 0330 the 2d Battalion received an attack in the vicinity of RIMLING (Q6555) by an estimated 200 enemy infantry supported by tanks. The enemy penetrated the lines of the 2d Battalion in the vicinity of

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(2) At 1400, CCD moved to the vicinity of (Q5721) which was in an area further to the rear in order to provide additional space for rear elements of the 36th Infantry Division.

(3) CCR moved to the vicinity of (Q2039) and established a counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGNOT LINE replacing the 12th Armored Division which passed to VI Corps control (3).

(4) CCV - no change in disposition from the previous period.

f. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to improve its positions. Some artillery fire was received, but no contact was made with the enemy.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved its positions along its entire front. There were no changes in the dispositions of units. The sector was quiet throughout the period, little hostile artillery being received, nor were enemy patrols active.

(2) There were no changes in the dispositions of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. Sporadic artillery and mortar fire fell within the sector throughout the day. No ground contact was made with the enemy. Demolitions in the vicinity of (Q2858), (Q2959), (Q2657), (Q3959), and (Q2757) were executed in order to impede any attempted advances by the enemy and to strengthen the defenses.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 27 counterbattery missions, including a counterbattery program on 15 enemy batteries. 23 observed neutralization missions were fired on tanks and troops along the front and 58 harassing missions were fired in the areas near RIMLING (Q6555), ERCHING (Q6557) and northeast of LEMBERG (Q7345).

h. XV Corps Engineers maintained roads and bridges in the Corps area. Bailey bridges near (Q4345) and (Q4243) were replaced with culverts. Bailey bridges near (Q4345) were in the process of being replaced with fixed bridges. The fixed bridge near (Q1848) was completed.

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew only one flight of 12 planes in support of XV Corps. 5 tanks, 18 horse drawn vehicles, 3 staff cars, 4 guns and 16 track vehicles were reported destroyed or damaged in the vicinity of (Q8949), (Q7858), (Q7853), (Q9245), (Q9246), (Q9148), (Q7954) and (Q7858). Poor visibility prevented further close support, though long range bombers dropped 234 tons of bombs on KAISERSLAUTERN (R0274) and ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7272).

j. Twenty-three prisoners were captured in the Corps area during the period; the 44th Infantry Division captured 6, the 100th Infantry Division 4, the 103d Infantry Division 4, the 36th Infantry Division 5 and Corps troops 4.

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There was a great deal of activity during the period in the right portion of the XV Corps sector with both enemy and friendly troops striving to improve positions. The enemy made a slight penetration on the Corps extreme right flank which was promptly restored. The left portion of the Corps sector was quiet as work continued on defenses. Hostile artillery activity was fairly light during the early

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part of the period, but perceptibly increased during the latter part, particularly in the right portion of the 44th Infantry Division sector and in the sectors of the 100th and 36th Infantry Divisions.

Operations Instructions 96 XV Corps, dated 1800, 9 January was published announcing the new plan for employment of Seventh Army (4). The plan employed the XXI Corps on the left, XV Corps in the center, and VI Corps on the right, with no change in defensive missions. The 103d Infantry Division and 106th Cavalry Group were to pass to control of XXI Corps not later than 1800, 13 January. The boundary between XXI Corps and XV Corps was established as follows: (Q5262) - (Q5259) - (Q5158) - (Q5157) - (Q5075) - (Q4852) - (Q3845) - (Q3728) - (Q3525) - (Q3023) - (Q2614); the boundary between XV Corps and VI Corps as follows: (Q8753) - (Q8142) - (Q7240) - (Q6839) - (Q6224) - (Q6519). The 36th Infantry Division was attached to XV Corps, effective 8 January, but the restriction that not more than one RCT might be employed without Army approval remained in effect. The attachment of the 253d and 255th Infantry Regiments to the 44th and the 100th Infantry Division respectively, continued.(9)

a. In the sector of the 36th Infantry Division work continued on defensive positions. Hostile artillery fire, which was fairly light during the morning, increased during the latter part of the period with the bulk of the shelling, as heretofore, on front line positions.

(1) Positions of the 1st Battalion 142d RCT in the vicinity of (Q7445) were penetrated at 0600 by the enemy. A counterattack by other elements of the battalion restored the positions after inflicting heavy losses upon the enemy. At 2200 the 143d RCT relieved the 142d RCT in position and the latter unit then moved back to positions in reserve with the 1st Battalion near (Q7445), the 2d Battalion near (Q7046) and the 3d Battalion near (Q7142).

(2) The 143d RCT remained in the reserve area in the vicinity of MONTBRONN (Q6944) until 2200 when it moved forward to relieve the 142d RCT in position. The 1st and 3d Battalions 143d RCT occupied positions on the line: (Q7442) - (Q7446) with the 1st Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion took reserve positions near (Q7045).

(3) The 141st RCT remained in reserve in the general vicinity of MONTBRONN with the 1st Battalion near (Q7040), the 2d Battalion near (Q7142) and the 3d Battalion near (Q6738).

b. The 100th Infantry Division sector was active with both opponents attempting to improve their positions by minor patrol actions. One attack by friendly troops proved unsuccessful and several attempts at infiltration by the enemy were repulsed. Sporadic hostile artillery fire from light to moderately heavy fell throughout the sector during the period with the bulk of the fire on front line units.

(1) The 399th Infantry (with the 2d Battalion 398th Infantry attached) maintained its positions of the previous period. Sporadic artillery fire was received throughout the regimental sector during the period. Several enemy attempts to infiltrate, supported by tanks, in the vicinity of SPITZBERG (Q7547) were stopped by artillery and small arms fire. An attempt to penetrate the 3d Battalion's position near (Q7447) at 1130 by an estimated 50 enemy was equally unsuccessful. The three battalions held the line: (Q7447) - (Q7252) with the 2d Battalion on the left, the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion in the center. The 2d Battalion 398th Infantry remained in reserve near (Q7248).

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(2) The 255th Infantry continued to maintain and improve its positions with no change in the disposition of units. The enemy continued to maintain a defensive attitude along the front of the sector. Day and night patrols were active. No artillery fire was reported as having been received. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q7353) - (Q7155) - (Q6955) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q6851). ~~SECRET~~

(3) The 398th Infantry (less the 1st and 2d Battalions) held and improve its defensive positions in the vicinity of the MACINOT LINE from ACHEN (Q6050) to SINGLING (Q6250).

(4) The 397th Infantry (with the 1st Battalion 398th Infantry attached) continued its attempts to regain control of RIMLING (Q6555) where enemy tanks and infantry were active. Thirty men of the 2d Battalion cut off in the town by an enemy attack at 0635 were still isolated at the end of the period despite efforts of other elements of the 2d Battalion to effect relief. An attack by an estimated 100 enemy supported by tanks in a draw west of BETTVILLER (Q6753) was dispersed by small arms, mortar and artillery fire. Twenty-one prisoners were captured. The 1st Battalion 398th Infantry (attached to the 397th Infantry at 2300 on the previous day) attacked to seize Hill 375 (Q6454). Positions west of GUISING (Q6653) were reached in the face of moderate enemy resistance. The advance was continued despite heavy tank and artillery fire until Hill 370 (Q6554) was reached where further progress was stopped by artillery fire and direct fire from enemy tanks west of RIMLING. The positions at RIMLING having become untenable, the 397th Infantry prepared to effect a limited withdrawal under the cover of darkness with the approval of the Commanding General XV Corps. At the end of the period the units were located as follows: 1st Battalion 397th Infantry near (Q6754), 2d Battalion near (Q6555), the 3d Battalion near (Q6454) and the 1st Battalion 398th Infantry near (Q6554).

c. The 44th Infantry Division made several attempts to improve its defensive positions. The enemy was very alert and defended his positions vigorously with artillery and automatic weapons fire. Considerable enemy activity was noted in the BLEISBRUCKEN (Q5957) and HABKIRCHEN (Q5659) areas. Enemy personnel, vehicles, mortars and machine guns were covered by artillery fire with excellent results.

(1) The 3d Battalion 114th Infantry attacked at 1400 after a five minute artillery preparation to seize the railroad track from (Q5956) to (Q6055), but strong artillery and small arms fire forced the battalion to withdraw to its original positions: (Q5153) - (Q5855), held in conjunction with the 2d Battalion on its left. The 3d Battalion 253d Infantry was relieved by elements of the 1st Battalion 114th Infantry in position on the line: (Q6152) - (Q6451). Upon being relieved by elements of the 114th Infantry at 1600, the 3d Battalion 253d Infantry reverted to regimental control and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Q5255). Moderately heavy artillery and mortar fire was received in the 114th Infantry sector throughout the day.

(2) The 324th Infantry sector was subjected to intermittent shelling throughout the period. Patrols were sent out and three enemy were killed near (Q5956). All units held and improved their positions of the previous period. Elements of the 2d Battalion occupied a temporarily vacated enemy position near (Q5956) and succeeded in capturing 14 prisoners and killing 3 enemy who attempted to re-occupy that position. The 1st Battalion was located near (Q5454), the 2d

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Battalion near (Q5857) and the 3d Battalion held the line: (Q5657) -, (Q5559) - (Q5558).

(3) The 71st Infantry discontinued its program of rehabilitation and training and moved to new positions preparatory to beginning work on rear defensive areas. The 1st Battalion moved to the vicinity of (Q4352) and (Q4451) and closing at 1540. The 3d Battalion closed into FUTTELANGE (Q4150) at 1045. Organization of the left portion of the regimental sector on the new main line of resistance continued until the end of the period. The 2d Battalion near (Q5853) was attached to the 114th Infantry.

(4) The enemy continued to show a passive attitude. The 253d Infantry (less the 3d Battalion) continued to work on defensive positions: (Q5358) - (Q4956) with the 1st Battalion on the right. A reconnaissance patrol at 0015 searched the factory near (Q5258) and drew enemy small arms fire. The 3d Battalion which was relieved from attachment to the 114th Infantry moved to an assembly area near (Q5255).

d. The 103d Infantry Division maintained and continued to improve its defensive positions of the previous day. Additional work was conducted on secondary positions. The sector was quiet; only six rounds of artillery fire were received. Day and night patrols were active throughout the sector.

(1) The 410th Infantry held its positions on the line: (Q4957) - (Q4860) - (Q4161) with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion remained in reserve near (Q4157).

(2) The 411th Infantry continued to improve defensive positions. Patrols were dispatched, but no contact with the enemy was reported. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4161) - (Q3563) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q3460).

(3) The 409th Infantry continued work on the new main line of resistance. The 1st Battalion was near (Q3847), the 2d Battalion near (Q315564), and the 3d Battalion near (Q3353).

e. The 2d French Armored Division continued its screening mission. Units not thus engaged remained in the same areas as those of previous days and conducted a training and rehabilitation program.

(1) CCL maintained its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCR performed its counterreconnaissance duties west of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

f. The 106th Cavalry Group continued the occupation and maintenance of the defensive positions of the previous day. Patrols were active throughout the day. No enemy artillery fire was reported in the Group sector.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 44 counterbattery missions, most of them to the north of RIMLING (Q6555), in support of the 100th Infantry Division. Twenty-two prepared missions were executed during the night in the area: RIMLING (Q6555) - REINHEIM (Q5960), and north of SARREGUEMINES (Q5157). Fifty-eight observed missions were fired on tanks, vehicles, and enemy personnel in the Corps sector.

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h. XV Corps Engineers completed a trestle bridge near (Q5146). Defensive positions at BINING (Q6449) were completed.

i. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish close air support because of adverse weather conditions.

j. Two hundred and twenty-one prisoners were captured in the Corps area: Corps troops captured 4, the 36th Infantry Division 54, the 44th Infantry Division 23, the 100th Infantry Division 132, and the 103d Infantry Division 8.

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XV Corps maintained its defenses and made limited objective attacks to improve its positions. The enemy, while not aggressive, resisted every attempt to dislodge him from his positions.

a. The 36th Infantry Division continued to hold its defensive sector with one regimental combat team. The other two combat teams began reconnaissance for defensive positions on the line: VOLKSBERG (Q6838) - LORENTZEN (Q5939).

(1) At 0630 approximately 35 enemy attacked in the vicinity of (Q7440) in the sector of the 1st Battalion 143d Infantry. The attack was repulsed without loss of ground. Though harassing enemy artillery fire was received throughout the period, defenses were maintained and all units continued to occupy the same positions as of the previous day.

(2) The 141st Infantry continued small unit training. Reconnaissance initiated for the organization of secondary defense lines in the vicinity of LORENTZEN and VOLKSBERG. The 1st Battalion closed in RATZWILLER (Q6339), the 2d Battalion in the area: DIEMERINGEN (Q6038) - WALDHAMBACH (Q6236) and the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q6739).

(3) The 142d Infantry moved to assembly areas in the area: REXINGEN (Q5933) - ADAMSWILLER (Q6134) - DURSTEL (Q6032) - ASSWILLER (Q6231). The rehabilitation program was continued in these new locations.

b. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission on approval of the Commanding General XV Corps. Elements were withdrawn to more desirable defensive positions and coordinated with those of the 44th Infantry Division on the left. The enemy made no offensive gestures, but defended his own positions determinedly.

(1) The 399th Infantry endeavored to improve its positions on the right with limited objective attacks. The 2d Battalion 398th Infantry, attached to the 399th Infantry, attacked at 0745 to secure the edge of the woods in the vicinity of (Q7448), to seize STEINKOPF (Q7449) and the woods in the vicinity of (Q7449). After a short advance, heavy small arms, mortar, and artillery fire forced a withdrawal to the original positions near (Q7349). The sector then remained quiet until the enemy attacked at 1630 under the cover of smoke. After a fire fight lasting one hour, the attack was repelled and all positions completely restored. There were no changes in the locations of units. Intermittent artillery fire was received throughout the day.

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(2) The 255th Infantry continued to defend in the same positions as during the previous period. The front was quiet with no hostile shelling or enemy contact reported.

(3) The sector of the 398th Infantry was quiet; contact with the enemy was light. The 3d Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion 397th Infantry in positions near (Q6454) at 1730. Companies "I" and "M" moved to the vicinity of SINGLING (Q6249), commencing at 1600 and closing prior to the end of the period. The 1st Battalion remained attached to the 397th Infantry. The 2d Battalion was attached to the 399th Infantry in the vicinity of LAMBACH (Q7248).

(4) The 397th Infantry discontinued efforts to rescue the men trapped in RIMLING. At 2000 elements of the 2d and 3d Battalions and elements of the 1st Battalion 398th Infantry (attached) began their withdrawal to new positions in the vicinity of (Q6552) and closed at 2300. Positions were coordinated with neighboring units. Elements of the 3d Battalion 397th Infantry moved from the vicinity of BINING at 1300 and relieved elements of the 3d Battalion 398th Infantry in position by 1525 along the line: (Q5847) - (Q6151). Elements of the 2d Battalion 397th Infantry were relieved at 2115 by elements of the 3d Battalion 398th Infantry and reverted to unit control. No physical contact with the enemy was reported though moderate artillery fire was received during the period.

c. The 44th Infantry Division continued to maintain its positions. A successful attack was made to improve the positions on the right of the sector. The enemy made no offensive moves, but resisted determinedly every threat to his positions.

(1) The 114th Infantry improved its positions. At 1400 the 3d Battalion attacked without artillery preparation to secure the railroad track along the line from (Q5956) - (Q6055). The objective was attained in the face of moderate small arms and mortar fire. These new positions shortened the line of the 324th Infantry permitting one additional company to be placed in reserve. Elements of the 2d Battalion 71st Infantry, attached, occupied positions on the high ground near (Q5954) during the attack. The remainder of the regiment maintained the defensive positions of the previous period. Sporadic artillery fire was received throughout the period.

(2) The 324th Infantry maintained and improved its positions of the previous period. An outpost of the 2d Battalion was forced back to our lines from the vicinity of (Q5956) by a strong enemy patrol. The enemy patrol was later driven off and the OPLR was restored. The 2d Battalion shortened its lines: (Q5856) - (Q5758) to take advantage of the improved positions of the 114th Infantry. The period was quiet, except for intermittent artillery fire. There was no contact with the enemy other than that mentioned above.

(3) The 71st Infantry continued work on its defensive positions. The 1st Battalion moved to SELTZHEIM (Q5351), closed at 1730, and immediately began to prepare positions in the right sector of the regimental front. The 3d Battalion moved to HALBACH (Q4951) and performed similar functions on the left of the regimental sector. No contact with the enemy was made; the sector remained quiet. The 2d Battalion was attached to the 114th Infantry.

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(4) The 253d Infantry continued to improve its positions. Patrol activity increased. The front was quiet, with some movement of the enemy noted. The 1st and 2d Battalions remained in the positions of the previous day. The 3d Battalion closed in an assembly area at 0020 in the vicinity of (Q5255) and spent the remainder of the period in rehabilitation.

d. The 103d Infantry Division made a limited objective attack on the left of the division sector to secure more favorable defensive terrain. This attack met with slight success. The enemy made no offensive moves, but defended vigorously the ground he held.

(1) The 410th Infantry supported the attack of the 411th Infantry with fire. No other action took place in the sector and there was no change in the defensive positions of the units. Night patrols were active, but no reports of contact with the enemy were received.

(2) At 1330 after an artillery preparation the 411th Infantry attacked with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast. Good progress was made until the advance was halted along the line: (Q4963) - (Q3964) by enemy rifle, automatic and mortar fire from positions which the artillery preparation had failed to reduce. At the end of the day the 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q3562).

(3) The 409th Infantry remained in the positions of the previous period. The 2d Battalion searched MERLEBACH (Q3261) for enemy agents in coordination with CIC personnel.

c. The 2d French Armored Division continued to perform its assigned screening and patrol missions. Those units not thus engaged remained in the same areas as during the previous periods conducting a training and rehabilitation program. CCL maintained the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE. CCR performed a similar mission west of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

f. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to occupy defensive positions with no change in the disposition of its units. The enemy was alert but not aggressive.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron held its positions and maintained contact with the enemy through patrols. Strong patrols were sent out which encountered small arms fire near (Q3272) and observed the enemy in position at (Q3271).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied and improved the defensive positions held during the previous period. Small arms fire was received by patrols near (Q3468) and artillery fire fell within the squadron sector. Patrols encountered the enemy in numerous places and were forced to withdraw under mortar, small arms, and machine gun fire.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 27 counterbattery missions. During the night 45 prepared harassing and roadrunner missions were fired in the area north of GROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

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h. XV Corps Engineers maintained the roads and bridges in the Corps sector. A fixed bridge near (Q2150) was completed.

i. XII Tactical Air Force sent out three flights totalling 36 aircraft over the 44th and 100th Infantry Division sectors. The strong point in the vicinity of (Q6355) was bombed and strafed. Troop concentrations and gun positions in the vicinity of RIMLING (Q6555) and BITCHE (Q7750) were also reported bombed and strafed with good results.

j. Eighty-four prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 36th Infantry Division captured 35, the 44th Infantry Division 7, the 103d Infantry Division 9, the 100th Infantry Division 26 and Corps troops 7.

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XV Corps continued its efforts to improve its defensive positions. Only limited objective attacks were attempted with varying success. The enemy showed no inclination to attack, but made every effort to retain his positions. Enemy artillery activity decreased in volume and intensity along the Corps front except in the LEMBERG (Q7444) and SARREINSBERG (Q7441) areas.

a. The 36th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions. Only patrol activity and a demonstration attack were reported during the day. Sporadic arty fire fell in the area throughout the period, with moderately heavy fire falling in the vicinity of LEMBERG, SARREINSBERG and near (Q7541).

(1) The 143d Infantry remained in its defensive positions of the previous day without change in relative location of battalions. A 3d Battalion demonstration by fire brought a sharp reaction from the enemy in the form of artillery and mortar shelling. Enemy patrols were active but no contact was made.

(2) The 141st Infantry continued to organize secondary defensive positions in the LORENTZEN (Q5839) and VOLKSBERG (Q6738) areas.

(3) The 142d Infantry conducted small unit training in the DURSTEL (Q6032) area.

b. Refusal of the enemy to show himself in more than small groups resulted in an exceptionally quiet period in the sector of the 100th Infantry Division. Units were shifted without interference from the enemy. Normal patrol activity continued.

(1) The 399th Infantry readjusted the location of units without interference from the enemy. The 1st Battalion relieved the 2d Battalion 398th Infantry in position. The latter unit then reverted to regimental control. At the close of the period the 2d, 1st and 3d Battalions from right to left were located on the line: (Q7351) - (Q7347).

(2) The 255th Infantry continued to defend and improve the positions of the previous day. The sector was very quiet. The 3d Battalion relieved the 2d Battalion in position near (Q7154), and upon relief the 2d Battalion moved to reserve positions near (Q6852). The 1st Battalion remained near (Q6955).

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(3) All units of the 397th Infantry organized and adjusted their positions. Intermittent artillery fire fell in the vicinity of BINING (Q6549), but no physical contact with the enemy occurred. Company "C" 397th Infantry and Company "L" 398th Infantry were relieved in position near (Q6452) by the 1st Battalion 398th Infantry. Command of the sector passed to the Commanding Officer 398th Infantry at 2100. The 1st Battalion 397th Infantry was on the line: (Q6755) - (Q6553). The 2d and 3d Battalions were in reserve near (Q6451) and (Q5949) respectively.

(4) The 398th Infantry made local shifts in units. The front was quiet with no artillery fire reported. The 1st Battalion 398th Infantry relieved Company "C" 397th Infantry and Company "L" 398th Infantry in position near (Q6452). The 3d Battalion 398th Infantry occupied positions near (Q6353). The Commanding Officer 398th Infantry assumed command of the sector at 2100. The 2d Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 399th Infantry and moved to regimental reserve position in the vicinity of GROS REDERCHING (Q6351).

c. The 44th Infantry Division held and improved its front line positions. A limited objective attack was successful despite stubborn resistance by the enemy. Intermittent hostile artillery fire fell in the area throughout the period.

(1) The 114th Infantry remained in positions occupied during the previous period. Sporadic artillery fire was received all during the day; the 3d Battalion near (Q3854) received a concentration estimated at 50 rounds but no enemy ground action developed. The 2d Battalion near (Q5953) destroyed an 8 man enemy patrol on its front. The sector of the 1st Battalion remained quiet. The 2d Battalion 71st Infantry remained attached to the 114th Infantry in reserve positions near (Q5752).

(2) The 324th Infantry attacked to improve its defensive positions. At 0300 elements of the 2d Battalion attacked and seized its objective Hill 325 (Q5956), after reducing four enemy strong points manned with machine guns and machine pistols. A subsequent enemy counterattack at 0715 was repulsed. The 1st and 3d Battalions held their positions along the line: (Q5555) - (Q5358) - (Q5459) - (Q5458).

(3) The 253d Infantry continued to man its outposts and to work on its positions. A patrol missing since the previous day returned. No enemy activity was reported. The 2d Battalion moved to reserve positions near (Q5255) and closed at 1945 after being relieved by the 3d Battalion in position on the right of the line: (Q4855) - (Q5257). The 1st Battalion remained on the left.

(4) The 71st Infantry continued to develop its reserve defensive positions along the MAGINOT LINE. The 1st and 3d Battalions continued work on the right SILTZHEIM (Q5251), and left HAMBACH (Q4951) sectors, respectively. The 2d Battalion remained attached to the 114th Infantry.

d. The 103d Infantry Division continued its limited objective attack, but it met with partial success only. Positions on the ground already gained were strengthened. The enemy proved to be very alert and stoutly resisted all our attempts to advance.

(1) The 411th Infantry resumed its attacks on Hill 387 near (Q4063) and the hill near (Q3964); some gains were made but intense enemy small arms and mortar fire reinforced by moderate artillery fire prevented complete occupation.

of the objectives. New lines were established and work on defensive positions begun with the 2d and 3d Battalions holding the line: (Q4223) - (Q3525). The 1st Battalion remained in reserve in the vicinity of (Q3521).

(2) The 410th Infantry kept in close touch with developments on the 411th Infantry front prepared to cope with an expected counterattack which did not develop. A night raid on KERBACH (Q4463) by the 3d Battalion was in progress when the period closed. Active patrolling was continued, but no contact with the enemy was reported. Dispositions of the regiment remained unchanged from those of the previous period.

(3) The 409th Infantry was alerted for movement; the 2d Battalion remained on the alert in MERLEBACH (Q3261), and the 3d Battalion was on a half hour alert in CAPPEL (Q3553). The 1st Battalion guarded the bridges in the division rear areas.

e. The 2d French Armored Division continued to perform the missions assigned it. Those units not thus engaged remained in the same area as that of previous periods and conducted training. CCL maintained a counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE. CCR performed a similar function west of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

f. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to occupy the same defensive positions as during the previous period. No contact with the enemy was reported.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved its defensive positions. Patrols observed small groups of enemy digging in to the front of the sector.

(2) Some mortar fire was received on the positions of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. Patrols reported no enemy contact.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 25 counterbattery missions, with most of the missions falling in the BITCHE (Q7750) - VOLMUNSTER (Q7258) area. Ninety-three prepared harassing and roadrunner missions were fired in the area northwest of RIMLING (Q6655) and north of SARREGUEMINES (Q5157).

h. XV Corps Engineers maintained the roads and bridges in the Corps sector and assisted the divisions in their preparation of defensive positions along the MAGINOT LINE.

i. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish air support because of adverse weather conditions.

j. Twenty-three prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period; the 44th Infantry Division captured 21 prisoners, the 100th Infantry Division 1, and Corps troops 1.

12 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its defensive mission. The one limited objective attack attempted was repulsed by the enemy, who remained generally on the defensive, was alert to any offensive move.

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in position near (Q7153). The 2d Battalion moved to positions near (Q6952) in regimental reserve. The 1st Battalion remained near (Q6955).

c. The 44th Infantry Division continued to work on its positions. The enemy repulsed one limited objective attack shortly after it was launched. Artillery, mortar, and small arms fire was received throughout the period.

(1) The 71st Infantry continued organization of its defensive positions within the MAGINOT LINE; the 1st Battalion developed the right sector at SILTZHEIM (Q5251) and the 3d Battalion the left sector at HALBACH (Q4951). The 2d Battalion remained attached to the 114th Infantry.

(2) In an effort to gain favorable terrain on its front the 114th Infantry made a limited objective attack against positions believed to be lightly held. The 3d Battalion began to advance rapidly in the face of only small arms fire until met by a counterattack supported by artillery and automatic weapons fire which forced a withdrawal to its original positions near (Q5854). The 1st and 2d Battalions remained in the positions of the previous day as did the 2d Battalion 71st Infantry which was attacked.

(3) The 324th Infantry supported the attack of the 114th Infantry with fire. No change was made in the positions of its units. Considerable small arms, mortar, and artillery fire was received during the day.

(4) The 253d Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) continued its outpost duties and worked on rear positions. Patrols were active and upon encountering the enemy near (Q5360) killed 2 and captured 2. The 2d Battalion moved to the vicinity of (Q5255) in regimental reserve after having been relieved by the 3d Battalion who held the line: (Q4855) - (Q7257) along with the 1st Battalion.

d. The 103d Infantry Division organized and improved its newly captured positions. Patrols maintained contact with the enemy.

(1) The 410th Infantry remained alerted in its defensive positions. Patrols sent to KERBACH (Q4363), LIXING-LES-ROUHLING (Q4662) and GROSBLIEDERSTROFF (Q4862) received small arms fire. No change was made in the positions of the units from those of the previous period.

(2) The 411th Infantry prepared defensive positions on the ground gained in the attack of the preceding day. The only contact with the enemy was that established through normal patrolling. No change in the position of units occurred.

(3) The 409th Infantry made no change in the disposition of its units. The 1st Battalion continued to guard the bridges in the division sector, and the 2d and 3d Battalions remained in the positions of the previous day.

e. The 2d French Armored Division continued the counterreconnaissance and blocking missions assigned it. Those units not thus engaged conducted a limited training and rehabilitation program in the same areas as during the previous period. CCL maintained the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE RIVER and, CCR performed a similar function west of the SARRE RIVER.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 15 counterbattery missions. Eleven observed missions were fired on enemy infantry, on OPs and on one enemy battery in the RIMLING

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(Q6555) area. Prepared harassing missions were fired during the night for the most part on towns in the BLIESBRUCKEN (Q5857) - RIEHLING area. Missions were fired on suspected enemy OPs east of SAARBRUCKEN (Q4571) and at NEUALTHEIM (Q6765).

g. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained its positions of the previous period. Patrols were active, sighting the enemy near (Q3271), (Q3470), (Q3370) and (Q3566). Several short fire fights occurred, but the enemy made no further aggressive moves.

h. XV Corps Engineers maintained roads in the Corps sector and assisted the divisions in preparing secondary defenses.

i. XII Tactical Air Force reported that an enemy train north of LANDAU (Q2868) had been bombed and strafed. Poor visibility prevented close support missions being flown.

j. Fourteen prisoners were captured in the Corps sector: the 36th Infantry Division captured 3, the 103d Infantry Division 10, and Task Force Harris 1.

13 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued work on the defenses within its sector. The front was quiet; the enemy made no offensive moves. Enemy artillery continued to decrease in activity. The sectors of the 100th Infantry Division and the 36th Infantry Division were subjected to light intermittent shelling during the period.

Operations Instructions 97 XV Corps, dated 1900, 13 January, directed the 36th Infantry Division to move one RCT at once to an assembly area in the vicinity of FRANCAITROFF (Q3140), and to close there by 1200, 14 January. Upon arrival the RCT was to pass to the control of XXI Corps. (5)

The 103d Infantry Division and the 106th Cavalry Group and supporting troops were to pass to control of the XXI Corps at 1200.

a. The 36th Infantry Division continued to hold its defensive positions with one RCT. The front was quiet; the only contact with the enemy being by patrols. The division artillery fired observed missions on hostile personnel, tanks, vehicles, and mortars. RCT 142 was alerted for movement to XXI Corps.

(1) The 143d Infantry held defensive positions in the LEMBERG (Q7445) sector until relieved at 2130 by the 141st Infantry. The sector was generally quiet. Normal patrol activities were conducted. Upon relief, the 143d Infantry moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of MONTBRONN (Q6944).

(2) The 141st Infantry moved to forward assembly areas in the vicinity of LEMBERG (Q7445) and relieved the 143d Infantry on the line: (Q7442) - (Q7446), with the 3d Battalion on the left, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the right.

(3) The 142d Infantry moved to the vicinity of RATZWILLER (Q6440) and continued the organization and improvement of a switch position between VOLKSBERG (Q6836) and LORENTZEN (Q5939). Later in the period the 142d RCT was alerted for movement to the vicinity of FRANCAITROFF (Q3140) for attachment to XXI Corps.

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b. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. Patrols were active, but contact with the enemy was very slight. Enemy defensive activities along the front of the sector were harassed by organic artillery fire. Hostile artillery fired intermittently on front line units during the period.

(1) The 397th Infantry worked on its reserve defensive positions. The 1st Battalion remained in the vicinity of ACHEN (Q6049), and the 3d Battalion continued to develop its positions along the line: (Q6150) - (Q6351). The 2d Battalion remained attached to the 398th Infantry.

(2) The 398th Infantry (2d Battalion 397th attached) sent out night patrols but no contact with the enemy was reported. The regiment held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6353) with the 3d Battalion on the left, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion 397th Infantry remained in regimental reserve and continued to prepare defensive positions in the forts of the MAGINOT LINE: (Q6351) - (Q6750).

(3) In the sector of the 399th Infantry sniper, mortar, and artillery fire was received throughout the period. The 1st Battalion raided an enemy position in the vicinity of (Q7449) and killed an estimated 5 Germans. The 3d Battalion held the line: (Q7449) - (Q7546), the 2d Battalion was near (Q7450), and the 1st Battalion continued in reserve at SIERSTHAL (Q7249).

(4) The 255th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) held and improved its positions of the previous period. The enemy maintained a defensive attitude with no ground contact reported. The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q6955) - (Q7155) - (Q7253) with the 1st Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion remained near (Q7452).

c. The 44th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions. The front remained quiet with no activity reported.

(1) The 71st Infantry continued work on rear positions with the 1st Battalion at SILTZHEIM (Q5352) and the 3d Battalion at HAMBACH (Q4952). The 2d Battalion remained attached to the 114th Infantry at WOELFLING (Q5954).

(2) The enemy maintained a defensive attitude along the front of the 114th Infantry. No ground contact was reported. Work continued without interference on positions along the line: (Q6353) - (Q6152) - (Q5956) with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion 71st Infantry (attached) remained in reserve at WOELFLING (Q5154).

(3) The dispositions of the 324th Infantry remained the same as during the previous period. The period passed quietly with only sporadic artillery fire falling in the sector. No contact with the enemy was reported.

(4) The 253d Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) continued its normal outpost duties and its work on rear positions. The enemy maintained an alert defense and patrols were subjected to enemy shelling, to rifle, and machine gun fire. There was no change in positions from those of the previous period.

d. The 2d French Armored Division continued to perform its screening missions.

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(1) CCL maintained a counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCR performed a similar function west of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(3) Remaining elements conducted a limited training and rehabilitation program without change in previous locations.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired 9 counterbattery and 21 observed missions along the Corps front. Prepared harassing missions were fired on HORNBACH (Q7365), ERCHING (Q6557), and EPPING UEBACH (Q6957).

f. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of bridge and road maintenance. Two Bailey bridges near (Q4442) and (Q4642) were replaced by steel stringer bridges.

g. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with 10 flights of 120 aircraft. Twenty-four close support missions were flown against troop concentrations, motor vehicles, and supply dumps with reported good results. Thirty-six long range missions were flown on the Corps front on marshalling yards, rolling stock and military installations in the vicinity of KAISERLAUTERN (R0193), HOMBURG (Q7180), and ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7272).

h. Four prisoners were captured in the Corps sector; the 36th Infantry Division captured 3 prisoners, the 44th Infantry Division 1.

14 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued to occupy its defensive positions of the previous day. Contact with the enemy was very slight, and little artillery fire was received. One RCT was shifted to XXI Corps in compliance with Operations Instructions 97 XV Corps. (5).

a. The 36th Infantry Division continued to hold its sector with one regimental combat team. The front was quiet and only a small amount of mortar and self-propelled gun fire was received. The 142d RCT passed to the control of XXI Corps.

(1) The 141st Infantry accomplished only a limited amount of work on its defenses because of proximity of the enemy and the excellent observation afforded him. Reconnaissance and combat patrols reported no contact with the enemy, but some mortar and self-propelled fire was received throughout the area. The 2d Battalion moved to reserve at ENCHENBERG (Q7146); its positions on the line were taken over by the 1st and 3d Battalions, and by anti-tank elements.

(2) The 142d RCT moved at 0330 and closed in the FRANKALTROFF (Q3140) area at 1045, at which time it passed to the control of XXI Corps.

(3) The 143d Infantry organized and improved the switch positions in the VOLKSBERG (Q6838) - LORENTZEN (Q25079) area. Elements assembled initially in the ST. LOUIS-LES-BITCHE (Q7243) area. The 2d Battalion moved from that area, closing in VOLKSBERG at 1100, and the 3d Battalion closed in

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RATZWILLER (Q6339) at 1600. The 1st Battalion remained in ST LOUIS-LES-BITCHE.

b. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. Contact with the enemy was limited to patrols. The front was quiet, and only sporadic artillery fire was received.

(1) The 399th Infantry remained in its positions of the previous period. Patrols located the enemy near (Q7550) and (Q7448). Intermittent artillery, mortar and small arms fire was received throughout the period. The 2d Battalion remained in position near (Q7450). The 1st Battalion in the vicinity of SIERSTHAL (Q7249) made plans to relieve the 3d Battalion during the night on the line; (Q7449) - (Q7546).

(2) The 398th Infantry (the 2d Battalion 397th Infantry attached) improved its defensive positions; all Battalions remained in the positions occupied the previous day. Reconnaissance and combat patrols were sent out to locate enemy positions and to secure prisoners. Little enemy activity was observed, and there was no report of enemy artillery fire.

(3) The 397th Infantry maintained and improved its positions of the previous day. No change was made in the positions of the 1st and 3d Battalions. The 2d Battalion remained attached to the 398th Infantry. Patrols reported no contact with the enemy.

(4) The 255th Infantry (attached to 100th Infantry Division), with no change in the location of its units, improved its positions of the previous period. No reports of enemy activity were received.

c. All units of the 44th Infantry Division continued work on their defensive positions. The front was quiet with no enemy contact reported. Only slight enemy artillery fire was received in the sector.

(1) The front of the 253d Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) was quiet with no contact with the enemy being reported. A patrol of the 3d Battalion searched the area (Q4958), but had not returned by the end of the period. The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5458) - (Q5258) - (Q5057) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion in reserve near (Q5255) reconnoitered for a new main line of resistance.

(2) All units of the 114th Infantry (2d Battalion 71st Infantry attached) continued to improve front line positions with no change in the location of units. Patrols were active, but no contact with the enemy was reported.

(3) The 324th Infantry held its positions with no change in its dispositions from those of the previous day. Occasional enemy shelling was received throughout the sector, but no other enemy activity was reported.

(4) The 71st Infantry continued to organize its new main line of resistance with no change in the disposition of its units from the preceding day. The 2d Battalion remained attached to the 114th Infantry.

d. The 2d French Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the East - West line through WITTRING (Q5750) and east and west of the SARRE RIVER, and continued to block the western exits of the passes through the

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VOSGES between PHALSBOURG (Q6519) and ZITTERSHEIM (Q7133) inclusive. Units not thus engaged remained in the same areas as those of the previous day and continued their training and rehabilitation program.

c. XV Corps Artillery fired 8 counterbattery missions and 60 missions on tanks, infantry, OPs, roads, and towns in the area north of REMLING (Q6555). Twelve harassing missions were fired in the MOUTERHOUSE area (Q7942) to assist VI Corps. Eight inch guns attempted to shell the railroad station at HORNBAACH (Q7365) but the mission was not completed because of poor observation.

f. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road and bridge maintenance and aided the divisions in preparing secondary defensive positions. The Bailey bridge near (Q4142) was replaced with a stringer bridge. A rough timber crossing of the stream near (Q2661) was completed.

g. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with 10 flights totalling 120 aircraft. Twelve sorties each were flown in the sectors of the 100th and 36th Infantry Divisions on tank and troop concentrations and on gun positions. The remainder of the sorties were long range missions flown against supply installations at ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7371), against motor transport, and against railroad equipment and installations.

h. Fourteen prisoners were captured in the Corps sector; the 36th Infantry Division captured 3, the 44th Infantry Division 5, and the 100th Infantry Division 6.

15 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps maintained its defensive positions. The front was quiet, only light contact having been made with the enemy. Enemy artillery was generally quiet throughout the day, however the inactivity of his night firing came to an abrupt end about midnight with sporadic concentrations falling on the right of the Corps front.

a. The 36th Infantry Division (less 142d RCT, attached to XXI Corps) continued to hold its defensive line: LEMBERG (Q7445) - SARRIENSBERG (Q7442) with one RCT. The enemy appeared slightly more aggressive than during recent periods. The remainder of the division continued work on the VOLKSBERG (Q6838) - LORENTZEN (Q5939) switch positions.

(1) The 141st Infantry held its defensive positions of the previous day. Intermittent artillery fire was received throughout the sector. One enemy patrol was driven away from the 1st Battalion positions on the right of the line near SARRIENSBERG (Q7442).

(2) The 2d and 3d Battalions 143d Infantry continued the development of the VOLKSBERG - LORENTZEN switch positions. The 1st Battalion conducted small unit training in the ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243) area.

b. The 100th Infantry Division maintained its positions. The only contact with the enemy was through friendly patrols which captured some prisoners. Intermittent artillery fire was received on some sectors of the front during the day.

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Around midnight the enemy fired sporadic concentrations of artillery and nebelwerfer fire.

(1) The 399th Infantry front was quiet. Some unit dispositions were changed in order to rest the troops. Occasional mortar and artillery fire was received throughout the sector. Elements of the 3d Battalion were relieved in positions (Q7449) - (Q7546) by elements of the 1st Battalion. Upon relief, the 3d Battalion moved to the vicinity of SIERSTHAL (Q7249) and LAMBACH (Q7248). Dispositions of the 2d Battalion remained unchanged.

(2) All elements of the 397th Infantry remained in the same positions as those of the previous day. No contact with the enemy was reported.

(3) The 398th Infantry (2d Battalion 397th Infantry attached) held and strengthened its positions of the previous period. Reconnaissance and combat patrols were sent out, but no results were reported. No enemy artillery fire fell in the sector throughout the period.

(4) The 255th Infantry (attached to 100th Infantry Division) continued to defend along the lines of the previous period. During the day patrols were active, capturing two prisoners near (Q7056) and locating a machine gun near (Q7355).

c. The three front line regiments of the 44th Infantry Division maintained their positions. There was no activity and little enemy artillery fire was received. The 71st Infantry began organization and preparation of the SARRE RIVER defensive positions.

(1) The 114th Infantry (2d Battalion 71st Infantry attached) defended and patrolled its sector with no change in the disposition of its units. No contact with the enemy was made and no artillery fire was received.

(2) The 324th Infantry occupied and improved its positions of the previous day. The front was quiet, with activity limited to sporadic shelling in all sectors. Although patrols were active, no contact with the enemy was made.

(3) The 253d Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) continued to outpost and maintain its front lines with no change in disposition of battalions. The period was generally quiet, and no contact with the enemy was reported. The 2d Battalion in reserve near (Q5255) began work on a new main line of resistance from (Q5956) to (Q5758).

(4) The 71st Infantry began work on the SARRE RIVER defenses. Companies "A" and "C" of the 1st Battalion closed in WITTRING (Q5650) at 0900, and Company "B" closed in the vicinity of WITTRING FARM (Q5451) at 0840; the remainder of the Battalion stayed at SILTZHEIM (Q5351). The 3d Battalion, less Companies "H" and "I", closed at SILTZHEIM at 0930. Company "K" closed in ZETTING (Q5653); and Company "I" closed in the vicinity of (Q543542), by 0930. The 2d Battalion remained attached to the 114th Infantry.

d. The 2d French Armored Division maintained the counterreconnaissance screen south of an east-west line through WITTRING (Q5750) east and west of the SARRE RIVER and continued to block the western exits of the VOSGES passes between PHALSBOURG (Q6519) and ZITTERSHEIM (Q5153). Units not thus engaged remained in assembly areas of the previous period.

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e. XV Corps Artillery fired 11 counterbattery and 14 observed missions on tanks, infantry, and mortars, as well as 13 prepared harassing missions on towns in the area north of RIMLING (Q6555).

f. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain the roads and bridges in the Corps sector. Assistance was given to the divisions in their construction of secondary defenses.

g. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish close support to XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions; however the marshalling yards in ZWEIBRUCKE (Q7272), HOMBURG (Q7181), KAISERSLAUTERN (R0274) and PIRMASENS (Q9167) were reported attacked.

h. Five prisoners were captured in the Corps sector: the 44th Infantry Division captured 1 prisoner and the 100th Infantry Division 4.

16 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its defensive mission as prescribed in Field Order 15 XV Corps. The front remained quiet with little enemy contact reported; however, enemy artillery heavily shelled the right of the Corps sector. Orders were received from Seventh Army directing XV Corps to assemble all elements of the 2d French Armored Division and prepare to move it to the east on 12 hours notice.(6)

Field Order 18 XV Corps dated 1400, 16 January, was published. The order anticipated the possibility of an enemy penetration east of the SARRE RIVER and generally between PETIT REDERCHING (Q6851) and WITTRING (Q5750). The details of the order included the employment of the Corps reserve, the 2d French Armored Division, to counterattack to restore the battle positions. Each division was given its various assignments and each was informed of the positions which must be held at all costs.(20)

a. The 36th Infantry Division continued to defend its sector with one RCT. The only contact with the enemy was scattered light and medium artillery fire which was received throughout the period. 142d RCT remained attached to XXI Corps.

(1) The 141st Infantry held its defensive positions of the previous day. Contact was maintained with units on the right and left; patrols reported no enemy troops had been sighted in the areas to which they were dispatched. Active shelling by enemy light and medium batteries fell in the LEMBERG (Q7345) - SARREINSBERG (Q7441) sector.

(2) The 143d Infantry remained in its reserve positions of the previous day. The 1st Battalion conducted small unit training in the ST LOUIS-LES-BITCHE (Q7243) area. The 2d and 3d Battalions continued work on the VOLKSBERG (Q6838) - LORENTZEN (Q5939) switch positions.

b. The 100th Infantry Division maintained its positions in the same locations as during the preceding day. Some artillery fire was received; contact with the enemy was very light.

(1) The 397th Infantry defended in its positions of the previous period with no changes occurring in unit positions. Patrols reported no enemy contact, and

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no reports of enemy shelling were received.

(2) The 398th Infantry, (2d Battalion 397th Infantry attached) maintained and improved its positions without change in the locations of units. Reconnaissance and combat patrols were out; however results of their activities had not been received by the end of the period. Heavy artillery and mortar fire fell along the entire regimental front.

(3) The 399th Infantry rotated some of its elements, but the positions remained the same as those of the previous day. Elements of the 3d Battalion were relieved by Company "C" 1st Battalion near (Q7349). All other units remained in their positions. Moderate mortar and artillery fire was received throughout the period. Patrols were dispatched and one prisoner was captured near (Q7550).

(4) The 255th Infantry (attached to 100th Infantry Division) continued to defend its front line positions without change in the disposition of its units. Work was continued on defensive positions and among other improvements additional tactical wire was strung. Patrols captured 1 prisoner near (Q7352) and engaged in a fire fight in the same vicinity.

c. The front line regiments of the 44th Infantry Division continued to hold their positions of the previous day. Contacts with the enemy were more frequent; and artillery and small arms fire was received throughout the sector. The 71st Infantry continued to prepare reserve positions along the SARRE RIVER.

(1) The 114th Infantry (2d Battalion 71st Infantry attached) continued to improve its positions. Patrols were in contact with the enemy directly in front of the regimental sector. The 3d Battalion 114th Infantry was relieved in positions in the vicinity of (Q6054) by the 2d Battalion 71st Infantry. The former unit then moved to reserve position near (Q5853).

(2) All units of the 324th Infantry held and improved their positions. No contact with the enemy infantry occurred, but the sector was shelled sporadically throughout the day.

(3) The 253d Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) sector was quiet. All units retained and improved the positions of the previous period. While no contact was made with the enemy during the period, plans were laid for raids on subsequent days.

(4) The 1st and 3d Battalions 71st Infantry continued to organize their defensive positions along the SARRE RIVER. The 2d Battalion remained attached to the 114th Infantry.

d. The 2d French Armored Division maintained the counterreconnaissance screen south of an east - west line through WITTRING (Q5750) and east and west of the SARRE RIVER and continued to block the western exits of the VOSGES passes between PHALSBOURG (Q6519) and ZITTERSHEIM (Q5153). Units not thus engaged remained in assembly areas of the previous period. At 2330 the division was alerted for movement to the east on 12 hours notice (in accordance with orders from Seventh Army).

e. XV Corps Artillery fired 15 counterbattery missions and an anti-aircraft gun shoot on 13 hostile anti-aircraft batteries in conjunction with the bombing of BITCHE (Q7750). Twenty-seven observed missions were fired on enemy infantry opposite the Corps sector.

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f. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps sector as well as to assist the divisions in the construction of field fortifications.

g. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with 9 flights totalling 108 aircraft. Twenty-four planes supported the 100th Infantry Division by attacking enemy infantry at (Q6859) and gun positions near (Q6559). Fifty-four medium bomber bombed BITCHE (Q7750). Bombs were dropped on the marshalling yards at HOMBERG (Q7181), railroad tunnels near (R2188), (R2089) and (R2182), marshalling yards near (Q9074) and (Q6083) and an ammunition dump near (R0459).

h. Nine prisoners were captured in the Corps sector: the 36th Infantry Division captured 3, the 44th Infantry Division 4 and the 100th Infantry Division 2.

17 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps maintained its defensive positions. The front was more active than during the previous day, particularly on the left flank. Friendly patrols were more aggressive, but no penetration of enemy positions was effected. The enemy made one attempt at infiltration but was beaten back. Enemy artillery fire was moderate throughout the period.

a. The 36th Infantry Division restricted its operations to the maintenance of its defensive positions on the line: LEMBERG (Q7445) - SARRENSBERG (Q7442) and to the improvement of its switch positions along the line: VOLKSBERG (Q6839) - LORENTZEN (Q5939).

(1) The 141st Infantry continued to maintain the defensive along the line: LEMBERG - SARRENSBERG. The sector was quiet; no contact with the enemy was reported. The 2d Battalion moved from regimental reserve and relieved elements of the 2d Battalion 179th Infantry (45th Infantry Division) in position near (Q7540). Prior to the close of the period the 141st Infantry held the line: (Q7440) - (Q7346) with the three battalions abreast, the 3d Battalion on the left, the 2d Battalion on the right, and the 1st Battalion in the center.

(2) The 2d and 3d Battalions of the 143d Infantry continued organization and development of the VOLKSBERG (Q6838) - LORENTZEN (Q5939) switch positions. The 1st Battalion conducted small unit training in the vicinity of ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

(3) The 142d RCT remained attached to XXI Corps.

b. The 100th Infantry Division remained in its defensive positions of the previous day. There was little contact with the enemy; one raid was attempted, but proved unsuccessful. The enemy seemed content to hold his positions; his artillery fire was moderate.

(1) The 397th Infantry continued to consolidate and improve its positions with no change in the dispositions of its battalions from those of the previous period. The sector was quiet; no contact with the enemy was reported.

(2) The 398th Infantry (2d Battalion 397th Infantry attached) retained its front line positions of the previous day. Reconnaissance and combat patrols were dispatched, but no contact with the enemy was reported. Intermittent artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the period.

(3) The 399th Infantry maintained close contact with the enemy. Patrols were active; they located an enemy pillbox near (Q7550) and in the same area recovered a $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton vehicle which had been captured on 1 January. Sniper fire was received in the 1st Battalion sector along the line: (Q7447) - (Q7349), machine gun fire was received in the 2d Battalion sector near (Q7450) and artillery and mortar fire fell over the entire front. The 3d Battalion began organization and preparation of reserve positions in the vicinity of (Q7250).

(4) The 255th Infantry (attached to 100th Infantry Division) maintained its defensive positions of the previous period. Patrols located two enemy machine guns near (Q7255). No artillery fire was received in the regimental sector.

c. The 44th Infantry Division continued to use three regiments in the front line, while the 71st Infantry remained in reserve working on secondary positions. The front was covered by patrolling and artillery fire. An alert enemy met and countered every aggressive move. One enemy attempt at infiltration was stopped at the front lines.

(1) The 114th Infantry (2d Battalion 71st Infantry attached) continued work on its defensive positions. Operations were hampered by heavy snows necessitating the use of horse drawn vehicles to supply troops of the 1st Battalion on the line: (Q6451) - (Q6352) - (Q6152). At 0130 approximately 20 enemy infantry attempted to infiltrate the 1st Battalion positions but heavy machine gun and small arms fire forced the enemy to withdraw leaving 5 known dead. The 2d Battalion 71st Infantry near (Q5853) engaged in a fire fight with the enemy placing artillery and mortar fire on hostile elements to the immediate front. The 2d and 3d Battalions 114th Infantry retained their positions of the preceding day.

(2) The 324th Infantry held and improved its positions of the previous period. No contact was made with enemy infantry, but all units were subjected to sporadic artillery and mortar fire. A reconnaissance patrol sent into BLESBRUCKE (Q5958) late in the day had not reported results by the end of the period.

(3) The 253d Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) continued its normal outpost and defensive missions. At the beginning of the period a patrol of the 1st Battalion left the vicinity of (Q5258) and attempted to probe enemy positions, but enemy machine gun fire prevented much forward movement. The patrol called for artillery fire to cover its withdrawal. At 0001 a combat patrol crossed the SARRE RIVER near (Q5157) and encountered the enemy. Attempts to encircle a machine gun near (Q5057) were unsuccessful, but the patrol objective, four houses near (Q5057), was reached. The enemy however had already withdrawn to the protection of the machine gun position. The exact location of this gun was determined and an attempt was made to encircle it, but this maneuver drew fire from another machine gun near (Q5057). The patrol withdrew at 0400. The 2d and 3d Battalions remained in their positions of the previous day.

(4) The 1st and 3d Battalions 71st Infantry with the assistance of several engineer units continued to organize the SARRE RIVER defense lines in the vicinity of SILTZHEIM (Q5351) and west of WITTRING (Q5750). The 2d Battalion remained attached to the 114th Infantry.

d. The 2d French Armored Division maintained the counterreconnaissance screen south of the east-west line through WITTRING (Q5750) and east and west of the SARRE RIVER and continued to block the western exits of the VOSGES passes between

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PHALSBOURG (Q6519) and ZITTERSHEIM (Q5153). Units not thus engaged, remained in positions of the previous day where a program of training and rehabilitation was conducted.

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c. XV Corps Artillery fired 15 counterbattery missions. No other activity was reported.

f. No enemy aircraft were observed over the Corps sector during the period. The gun Battalions of the Corps anti-aircraft artillery fired 4 harassing missions in a field artillery role.

g. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain the roads and bridges in the Corps area. Bailey bridges at (Q3941) and (Q4342) were in the process of being replaced by stringer bridges. The Bailey bridge at (Q4342) was being replaced with a by-pass.

h. Adverse weather conditions made it impracticable for XII Tactical Air Force to furnish XV Corps air support.

i. Six prisoners were captured in the Corps sector: the 36th Infantry Division captured 3 and the 44th Infantry Division 3.

18 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps maintained its defensive positions. The front was quiet with little enemy offensive action reported. Preparations were made for the movement of various Corps units. Enemy artillery remained inactive during the greater part of the period. The sector of the 100th Infantry Division received most of the shelling.

The 36th Infantry Division (less the 141st RCT which remained in XV Corps sector and was attached to the 100th Infantry Division) passed to VI Corps per VOGG Seventh Army. (7)

Seventh Army Movement Order dated 17 January, received at 1400, 18 January, directed XV Corps to move the 2d French Armored Division without delay to the vicinity of MOLSHEIM (V8193) where it would become attached to the II French Corps. Movement was directed to begin on the night of 18-19 January. (8)

Operations Instructions 99 XV Corps, dated 1530, 18 January directed reorganization of defensive positions and the revision of division boundaries. Task Force HARRIS consisting of the 253d and 255th Infantry Regiments was attached to the 44th Infantry Division effective 19 January and placed on the left flank. Both divisions were directed to keep one regiment in division reserve and not less than two battalions in the MAGINOT LINE. All revisions were to be completed by 0700, 21 January. The new boundaries were as follows: XV Corps (100th Infantry Division) and VI Corps: (Q8752) - (Q8647) - (Q8242) - (Q7840) - (Q7641) - (Q7340) - (Q7140) - (Q6939) - (Q6838) - (Q6428); 44th and 100th Infantry Division: (Q7365) - (Q7059) - (Q6851) - (Q5939) - (Q5930); Task Force HARRIS and the 44th Infantry Division (temporary): (Q4568) - (Q6465) - (Q6162) - (Q6160) - (Q5959) - (Q5956) - (Q5853) - (Q5750) - (Q4946) - (Q4845) - (Q4837); XII Corps and XV Corps (Task Force HARRIS): (Q5259) - (Q5057) - (Q4652) - (Q4049) - (Q3847) - (Q3729).

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a. The 100th Infantry Division continued to maintain its defensive positions. One enemy patrol was encountered, and intermittent enemy artillery fire was received throughout the sector. The 141st RCT 36th Infantry Division was attached to the 100th Infantry Division at 2400, 17 January. Relief of the 255th Infantry as directed in Operations Instructions 99 IV Corps, was begun.

(1) The 141st Infantry continued to hold its defensive positions. The sector taken over from the 179th Infantry (45th Infantry Division) during the previous day was enlarged to include the strong point near (Q7540). Patrols captured 5 prisoners, but no other contact with the enemy was reported. No artillery fire was received. The 3 Battalions held the line: (Q7340) - (Q7446) with the 3d Battalion on the left, the 2d Battalion on the right, and the 1st Battalion in the center.

(2) The 399th Infantry continued to improve and defend its front line positions of the previous day. Intermittent artillery fire was received, with LAMBACH (Q6050) and SIERSTHAL (Q7149) being subjected to heavy concentrations. A reconnaissance patrol of the 1st Battalion which was along the line: (Q7446) - (Q7349) encountered a 31 man enemy patrol near (Q7448). The reconnaissance patrol called for and received artillery and mortar fire which dispersed the enemy. Another patrol of the 1st Battalion found an enemy machine gun near (Q7348). The 2d Battalion held its positions near (Q7450). The 3d Battalion, in reserve near (Q7149) improved positions on the high ground west of HOCHSCHLEDT (Q7149).

(3) The 397th Infantry continued to improve its reserve defensive positions until late in the period. No contact with the enemy was reported. Near the close of the day, the 1st and 3d Battalions began relief of the 1st and 3d Battalions 255th Infantry on the line: (Q7252) - (Q6955). The 2d Battalion 397th Infantry remained attached to the 398th Infantry.

(4) The 255th Infantry (attached to 100th Infantry Division) maintained its defensive positions until relieved by elements of the 397th Infantry late in the period. Upon relief, the 255th Infantry occupied defensive positions in the MAGINOT LINE between ROHRBACH (Q6650) and WITTRING (Q5751).

(5) The 398th Infantry (2d Battalion 397th Infantry attached) continued to defend its positions of the previous period. Patrols were active; 4 prisoners were captured. Intermittent artillery and mortar fire was received on the front lines. No other contact with the enemy was made. The 3 Battalions held the line: (Q6855) - (Q6353) with the 3d Battalion on the left, the 2d Battalion on the right, and the 1st Battalion in the center. The 2d Battalion 397th Infantry remained in reserve near (Q6451).

b. The 44th Infantry Division held and improved its defensive positions. Contact with the enemy was limited to artillery fire.

(1) The 1st and 3d Battalions 71st Infantry continued to improve and organize the SARRE RIVER defense line. The 1st Battalion was in the vicinity of WITTRING (Q5650) and the 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of SILTZHEIM (Q5351). The 2d Battalion remained attached to the 114th Infantry.

(2) The 114th Infantry (2d Battalion 71st Infantry attached) held and improved its defensive positions. No physical contact with the enemy was made although intermittent artillery fire was received throughout the day. The 3d Battalion relieved the 2d Battalion 71st Infantry in position near (Q5954). Upon relief, the 2d Battalion 71st Infantry moved to reserve positions near (Q5053).

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The 1st and 2d Battalions remained in positions near (Q6252) and (Q6075) respectively.

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(3) The 324th Infantry made no change in the dispositions of its units. The entire sector was subjected to sporadic artillery fire; the 3d Battalion along the line: (Q5768) - (Q5569) - (Q5458) received a heavy concentration at 1300 which lasted for 25 minutes. Patrols of the 1st Battalion near (Q5655) located enemy emplacements in BLIESBRUCKEN (Q5859). The 2d Battalion held the line: (Q5768) - (Q5855) without incident.

(4) The 253d Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) continued to maintain and improve its positions. The period was quiet with no report of shelling being received. The 1st Battalion further adjusted its positions along the line: (Q5458) - (Q5158), the 2d Battalion worked on the rear positions near (Q5255), and the 3d Battalion on reserve positions near (Q5157).

c. The 36th Infantry Division (less RCT 141) passed to control of VI Corps as ordered by verbal instructions of the Commanding General Seventh Army.

(1) The 143d RCT moved at 0930 enroute to HAGUENAU (R0323) and cleared XV Corps area at 1230.

(2) The 142d RCT moved from XXI Corps area and closed in DURSTEL (Q6034) at 1600.

(3) The 141st RCT remained attached to XV Corps (and further attached to the 100th Infantry Division).

d. The 2d French Armored Division commenced its movement to the vicinity of MOLSHEIM (V8193). Those units which did not move made preparations to move in the immediate future.

(1) CCR moved at 1800 and cleared XV Corps area at 2045 enroute to MOLSHEIM (V8193).

(2) CCL moved at 2045 and cleared XV Corps area by the end of the period.

(3) CCV remained in the vicinity of (Q5238).

(4) CCD remained in the vicinity of (Q5620).

e. XV Corps Artillery fired 8 counterbattery missions and 11 observed missions for the most part on enemy directly in front of the Corps sector. Twenty rounds of "POZIT" fuze ammunition were fired in the vicinity of HORNBAACH (Q7365) and northeast of SARREGUEMINES (Q5157).

f. No enemy aircraft were observed over the Corps sector during the period. The gun battalion of the Corps anti-aircraft artillery fired 6 unobserved field artillery missions.

g. XV Corps Engineers maintained the roads and bridges in the Corps area. Assistance was given the 100th and 44th Infantry Divisions in the preparation of defensive positions.

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h. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish XV Corps with close air support because of adverse weather conditions.

i. Nine prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector; all of them by the 100th Infantry Division.

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XV Corps maintained its positions. Units were shifted in compliance with Operations Instructions 99, XV Corps dated 18 January, 1945. Some artillery fire was received, but the sector was generally quiet with only patrol contact with the enemy reported.

a. The 100th Infantry Division shifted its units in conformity with instructions. The only contact with the enemy was by patrols; scattered artillery fire was received with concentrations in LEMBERG (Q7445) and SARELENSBERG (Q7442). The 255th Infantry passed to the control of the 44th Infantry Division as of 1300.

(1) The 141st RCT, attached to the 100th Infantry Division, continued to hold its positions on the line: (Q7446) - (Q7540), with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left. Patrols were active, but no contact with the enemy was reported. No hostile artillery fire was received.

(2) The 399th Infantry had light activity during the day, while intermittent artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the period. Early in the period the 2d Battalion was relieved in position near (Q7446) by the 3d Battalion. At 0200 a four man enemy patrol was observed directly in front of the 3d Battalion's positions along the line: (Q7446) - (Q7351). Small arms fire killed one of the enemy and drove the other three off. The 1st Battalion remained in position along the line: (Q7445) - (Q7351). The 2d Battalion upon relief, moved to the vicinity of SIERSTHAL (Q7149) and LAMBACH (Q6050).

(3) The 397th Infantry effected the relief of units of the 255th Infantry without enemy interference. At 0235 the 3d Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion 255th Infantry in position near (Q7352) and at 0600 the 1st Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion 255th Infantry in position along the line: (Q7254) - (Q6955). The 2d Battalion reverted to regimental control at 1005 after having been relieved in its reserve positions by the 2d Battalion 255th Infantry. It then moved to defensive positions in the MAGINOT LINE in the vicinity of (Q7151).

(4) The 398th Infantry defended along its front while the relief of its units was undertaken. Patrols were dispatched, but no contact with the enemy was reported. Intermittent artillery and mortar fire fell in the sector, with the bulk of it falling on the front lines. The 3d Battalion was relieved at 2040 by the 1st Battalion 71st Infantry, and moved to the vicinity of GUISEBERG (Q6846). The 2d Battalion upon relief by the 3d Battalion 71st Infantry at 2130 moved to the vicinity of PETIT REDERCHING (Q6851). The 1st Battalion was relieved at 2355 by the 2d Battalion 71st Infantry and moved to the vicinity of MONTERONN (Q6844).

b. The 44th Infantry Division defended its sector and proceeded with the relocation on units as prescribed in Operations Instructions 99 XV Corps. There was no contact with the enemy. Only sporadic artillery fire was received; a

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concentration fell in GUIRING (Q6653). The 255th Infantry was attached to the division as of 1300.

(1) The 1st and 3d Battalions 71st Infantry continued work on the SARRE RIVER defensive positions until noon. At that time the 1st Battalion moved to relieve the 3d Battalion 398th Infantry in position along the line: (Q6545) - (Q6353), and completed the relief by 2040. The 3d Battalion moved at noon to relieve the 2d Battalion 398th Infantry in position along the line: (Q6975) - (Q6754) and the relief was completed by 2105. The 2d Battalion 71st Infantry was relieved from attachment to the 114th Infantry and at 0800 moved to relieve the 1st Battalion 398th Infantry in position along the line: (Q6754) - (Q6554), completing the relief by 2355.

(2) The 114th Infantry remained in its defensive positions of the previous period. Patrols failed to contact the enemy, and there were no reports of artillery fire received. The 2d Battalion 71st Infantry, in reserve positions, was relieved from attachment to the 114th Infantry at 0800. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q6353) - (Q6152) - (Q5955). The 3d Battalion remained in reserve at (Q5853).

(3) The 324th Infantry occupied and improved its defensive positions of the previous period. Occasional mortar and artillery fire was received, but patrols reported no contact with the enemy. The line: (Q5855) - (Q5559) - (Q5458) was held by the 2d and 3d Battalions with the former on the right. The 1st Battalion remained in reserve in the vicinity of (Q5755).

(4) The 253d Infantry, attached to the 44th Infantry Division, held its defensive positions of the previous day. The period was quiet with no reports of artillery fire received. Patrols failed to contact the enemy. The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5558) - (Q5156) with the latter on the left. The 2d Battalion continued in reserve near (Q5255).

(5) The 255th Infantry was relieved by the 397th Infantry, 100th Infantry Division, and was attached to the 44th Infantry Division effective at 1300. Upon relief, the 1st Battalion occupied positions on the line: (Q6050) - (Q6351), the 2d Battalion on the line: (Q7351) - (Q7051), and the 3d Battalion on the line: (Q5750) - (Q6050).

c. The remaining units of the 36th Infantry Division, less 141st RCT which remained attached to XV Corps, cleared the Corps sector at 1130.

d. The 2d French Armored Division continued its movement to MOLSHEIM (V8193).

(1) CCV cleared the Corps area at 2230A.

(2) CCD, the final unit, remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of VINTERSBOURG (Q5921) prepared for movement to the south.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired 9 counterbattery missions during the period. Thirteen observed registration and harassing missions were fired in the vicinity of HORNBACH (Q7365).

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f. XV Corps Engineers completed construction of a two-way Class 40 timber trestle bridge near (Q6141) by 1700.

g. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with one flight of 12 planes which bombed ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7372) by radar. Adverse weather conditions prevented any close air support.

h. Six prisoners were captured in the Corps sector: the 44th Infantry Division captured 4 and the 100th Infantry Division 2.

20 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its defensive mission. No changes were made on the Corps front except for routine reliefs of units in the lines. The only contact with the enemy was minor patrol skirmishes. Desultory artillery fire only was received.

XV Corps was orally informed by the Commanding General Seventh Army that the 101st Airborne Division was to move to the XV Corps area. Corps made preparations to concentrate the division in the area: VOLKSBERG (Q6838) - LORENTZEN (Q5939) : METTING (Q6224) - RAUMILLER (Q5424). It was further planned that as soon as practicable after closing, the 101st Airborne Division would relieve whatever troops were in the sector now occupied by the 141st RCT.(10)

Seventh Army Operations Instructions 64, dated 20 January directed the XXI Corps to move on combat command of the 10th Armored Division to an area designated by the Commanding General XV Corps. Upon arrival in the XV Corps sector, this unit was to be relieved from attachment to XXI Corps and attached to XV Corps.(11)

a. The 100th Infantry Division (141st RCT, 36th Infantry Division attached) continued to improve its positions. Preparations were made to establish additional defenses in the division rear areas.

(1) 141st RCT continued to hold its defensive positions on the line: (Q7446) - (Q7540) with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left. Patrols captured four prisoners. No report of enemy artillery fire was received.

(2) The 399th Infantry held and improved its positions. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was sporadic and scattered. The 1st Battalion along the line: (Q7445) - (Q7351) delivered harassing artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire on the enemy. Occasional mortar and artillery fire was received on the positions of the 3d Battalion along the line: (Q7446) - (Q7351). The 2d Battalion remained in reserve positions at SIERSTHAL (Q7149) and LAMBACH (Q6050). No physical contact with the enemy was reported.

(3) The 397th Infantry made preparations for a new defense line. The positions occupied were further organized and improved. No contact with the enemy was reported although light automatic weapons and artillery fire was received on the 3d Battalion positions at (Q730525). The 1st Battalion held the line: (Q720540) - (Q691550). The 2d Battalion remained in reserve at (Q715510).

(4) The 398th Infantry remained in its positions of the previous period. During the day special training was conducted and a reconnaissance was made of the area to locate ground suitable for defensive positions. The 1st Battalion was at MONTEBRONN (Q6944), the 2d Battalion was at PETIT REDERCHING (Q6851) and the 3d Battalion was at GUISING (Q6746).

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b. The 44th Infantry Division held and improved its defensive positions of the previous day. Contact with the enemy was slight; very little artillery fire was received.

(1) The 71st Infantry held and improved its positions of the previous period. Two patrols from each battalion were dispatched to locate enemy positions. No artillery fire was reported received in the sector. The 1st Battalion was located along the line: (Q6445) - (Q6353), the 2d Battalion held the line: (Q6754) - (Q6554), and the 3d Battalion held the line: (Q6975) - (Q6754).

(2) The 114th Infantry remained in its defensive positions. Friendly reconnaissance patrols were active throughout the period. The sector was quiet. No artillery or small arms fire was received. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q6353) - (Q6152) - (Q5955) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion continued in reserve near (Q5853).

(3) The 324th Infantry occupied and improved its positions of the previous day. Early in the period, the 1st Battalion near (Q5755) sent a platoon to raid BLIESBRUCKEN (Q5958), but the party was discovered by the enemy whose heavy fire forced it to turn back. Early in the period, the 3d Battalion on the line: (Q5855) - (Q5459) together with the 2d Battalion received fairly heavy artillery and mortar fire. Sporadic shelling was received throughout the remainder of the day. At the close of the period, the 3d Battalion was being relieved by the 2d Battalion 255th Infantry.

(4) The 253d Infantry patrolled in its sector and improved its positions. No report of artillery fire or close contact with the enemy was received. The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5558) - (Q5156) with the 3d Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion in reserve near (Q5255) continued to organize the SARRE RIVER switch position.

(5) The 255th Infantry made preparations to relieve other units in the line. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion was in the process of relieving the 3d Battalion 324th Infantry in position on the line: (Q5658) - (Q5560) - (Q5459). The 1st Battalion along the line: (Q6050) - (Q6351) and the 2d Battalion along the line: (Q7351) - (Q7051) made preparations to relieve the 1st and 2d Battalions 324th Infantry.

c. CCD 2d French Armored Division cleared XV Corps area at 2115 completing the movement of that division from XV Corps area.

d. CCB 10th Armored Division commenced closing in assembly areas in the vicinity of WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131) at approximately 1600. The movement was considerably hampered by ice and snow.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired 14 counterbattery missions. Fourteen observed neutralization and harassing missions were fired on a division CP and supply point in the area east of SARREBRUCKEN (Q4670) and on enemy troops in the area east of VOLMUNSTER (Q7258).

f. XV Corps Engineers completed a Bailey bridge near (75156) and a 2-way Class 40 timber trestle bridge near (Q6141).

g. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to support XV Corps due to poor visibility.

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h. Eleven prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector: the 44th Infantry Division captured 6 and the 100th Infantry Division 5.

21 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its defensive mission. The entire front was quiet; no contact with the enemy was made with the exception of one minor enemy patrol action. Intermittent artillery fire was received during the period. CCB 10th Armored Division closed in the XV Corps sector.

Operations Instructions 100 XV Corps, dated 1130, 21 January, directed in substance that:

(1) The 101st Airborne Division assemble in the vicinity of DRULINGEN (Q6030) - SARRALTROFF (Q5019) and prepare to relieve in position the 141st RCT 36th Infantry Division.

(2) CCB 10th Armored Division assemble in the area of WOLFKIRCHEN (Q5131) and establish a counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE RIVER to intercept and destroy any infiltration of enemy armor; and prepare to counterattack on Corps order to the northeast, north, or northwest.

Operations Instructions 66 Seventh Army, dated 21 January, directed the movement of 141st RCT to VI Corps sector, the movement to be initiated prior to 0001, 23 January. (12)

Operations Instructions 68 Seventh Army, dated 21 January, revised XV Corps boundaries as follows: Between XV Corps and VI Corps, inclusive to XV Corps - RJ (Q8242), MOUTERHOUSE (Q6043), SARRIENSBERG (Q7441), MEISENTHAL (Q7241), WEISSLING (Q6536), ASSWILLER (Q6231), DRULINGEN (Q6030), and WEYER (Q5829); inclusive to VI Corps: TIEFFENBACH (Q6534); VOLKSBUERG (Q6839), and RJ (Q758408) were designated as limiting points; Between XV Corps and XXI Corps, inclusive to XV Corps - BLIESRANBACH (Q5363) and ROBALBE (Q2435); inclusive to XXI Corps - HUNDLING (Q4557), ST JEAN ROHRBACH (Q3847), and HELLIMER (Q3445). WELFERING (Q4958), RJ (Q405525), and BERMERING (Q2538) were designated as limiting points.

Field Message XV Corps, dated 21 January, directed the 100th Infantry Division to relieve the 141st RCT; the relief to be completed in time to allow the 141st RCT to rejoin the 36th Infantry Division prior to 0001, 23 January. (14)

a. The 100th Infantry Division held and improved its positions of the previous day. Intermittent artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the sector. The enemy maintained a passive attitude; only one small enemy patrol was encountered. Plans were made for the relief of the 141st RCT, 36th Infantry Division.

(1) The 141st RCT 36th Infantry Division (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) continued to maintain its sector: (Q7447) - (Q7540) with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion on the left, and the 1st Battalion in the center. Additional organization was effected on reserve positions. The sector was quiet; only moderate artillery fire was received. Security and reconnaissance patrols made no contact with the enemy.

(2) The 399th Infantry maintained and improved its defensive position. The front remained relatively quiet; only intermittent artillery and mortar fire was received. Contact with the enemy was limited to one small enemy patrol. A

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six man enemy patrol attacked a 1st Battalion listening post near (Q7448) and wounded 2 of its occupants with hand grenades before small arms fire forced the enemy to withdraw. Little activity occurred in the 3d Battalion sector, although about 12 enemy were observed near (Q7550). The 3d Battalion remained along the line: (Q7446) - (Q7351), while the 2d Battalion developed its reserve positions at SIERSTHAL (Q7149) and LAMBACH (Q6050). The 1st Battalion in the vicinity of (Q7445) - (Q7351) harassed the enemy with machine gun, anti-tank, and light artillery fire.

(3) The 397th Infantry consolidated and improved its front line positions. Light mortar and automatic weapons fire was received in the 1st Battalion's positions near (Q7352) and in the 3d Battalion's positions on the line: (Q7254) - (Q6955). Patrols did not contact the enemy. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve near (Q7151).

(4) The 398th Infantry improved its positions in the MAGINOT LINE and undertook special training. Plans were made for the relief of the 141st RCT the following day. The 1st Battalion was at MONTBRONN (Q6944), the 2d Battalion at PETIT REDERCHING (Q6851) and the 3d Battalion at GUIRING (Q6746).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued to maintain and improve its front line positions. The sector was quiet; no contact with the enemy was made; and only intermittent artillery fire was received. The relief of the 324th Infantry by the 255th Infantry was completed without incident.

(1) The 71st Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Patrolling was continued, but no contact with the enemy was reported. Intermittent artillery fire and sporadic small arms fire was received on the front lines. The 1st Battalion held the line: (Q6545) - (Q6353), the 2d Battalion held the line: (Q6754) - (Q6554), and the 3d Battalion held the line: (Q6975) - (Q6754).

(2) The 114th Infantry held its defensive positions without incident. The patrols did not contact the enemy and no reports of enemy artillery fire were received. The regiment with three battalions abreast held the line: (Q6353) - (Q6252) - (Q5956). The 1st Battalion was on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(3) The 255th Infantry relieved the 324th Infantry in position without incident. The 2d Battalion moved from ROHRBACH (Q6550) and at 0530 completed relief of the 3d Battalion 324th Infantry in position along the line: (Q5758) - (Q5660) - (Q5458). At 2230A the 3d Battalion had relieved the 2d Battalion 324th Infantry in position near (Q5956) - (Q5758). The 1st Battalion moved from EITTING (Q5948) to reserve positions in the vicinity of SARRELENSMING (Q5454) and at 1730A had relieved the 1st Battalion 324th Infantry.

(4) The 253d Infantry held and improved its defensive positions and continued to patrol in its sector. No enemy artillery fire was received during the period. The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5558) - (Q5156). The 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q525552).

(5) The relief of the 324th Infantry by the 255th Infantry was completed late in the day. The 3d Battalion moved to reserve defensive positions on the line: WITTING (Q5650) - ACHEN (Q5650). The 1st Battalion upon relief was attached

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to the 114th Infantry and closed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Q5954) at 1845. The 2d Battalion moved to positions formerly occupied by the 1st Battalion 25th Infantry on the line: ACHEN (Q6049) - ROHRBACH (Q6550).

c. The 101st Airborne Division continued movement to assembly areas in the vicinity of DRULINGEN (Q6029). At the end of the period the 506th and the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiments had closed and the 327th Glider Infantry Regiment was closing into the assembly area.

d. CCB, 10th Armored Division closed in an area northeast of PENETRANCE (Q4727) at 0200 and by 1200 had established a counterreconnaissance screen in the Corps sector south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE RIVER.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired 17 counterbattery missions during the period. Twenty-one observed registration and neutralization missions were fired in the vicinity of RIMLING (Q6555). Two harassing missions were fired on enemy personnel southwest of RIMLING.

f. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain the roads and bridges in the Corps area. Assistance was given to the divisions in the construction of defensive positions.

g. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish close support to XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions.

h. Three prisoners were captured in the Corps sector; the 44th Infantry Division captured 2, and the 100th Infantry Division 1.

22 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps held its defensive positions without important incidents. The front was inactive although intermittent artillery fire was received. The enemy attitude remained defensive; the only contact made with him was through patrols.

Operations Instructions 101, XV Corps, dated 22 January, confirmed verbal orders of the Commanding General Seventh Army directing the attachment of the 35th Infantry Division (less one RCT) to XV Corps. The division was ordered to assemble in the vicinity of DIEUZE (Q2524). (15)

a. The 100th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions. The enemy was more active than during previous periods. He probed the left of the division front with several patrols. Moderate artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the division sector.

(1) No action occurred in the sector of 141st Infantry and only moderate artillery fire was received. Strong patrols were maintained to the front, but no contact with the enemy was made. At 2045 the regiment was relieved by elements of the 398th Infantry 100th Infantry Division and preparations were made to rejoin its parent unit, the 36th Infantry Division, in the VI Corps sector.

(2) The 398th Infantry relieved the 141st Infantry 36th Infantry Division in position. At 1900 the 1st Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion 141st Infantry in position on the line: (Q7342) - (Q7444). The 2d Battalion relieved the 2d Battalion 141st Infantry at 1940 on the line: (Q7540) - (Q7442). The 3d Battalion

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Sub: After Action Rpt for Jan 45, dtd 12 May 45.

relieved the 3d Battalion 141st Infantry at 2045 in the vicinity of (Q7546).

(3) The 399th Infantry improved its positions of the previous period. The front was more active; occasional enemy artillery and mortar fire was received. A two man enemy patrol approached an outpost of the 1st Battalion near (Q7448) at 2400, but small arms fire and grenades forced the patrol to withdraw immediately. The 1st Battalion on the line: (Q7447) - (Q7349) harassed the enemy with moderate artillery and machine gun fire. The 3d Battalion along the line: (Q7449) - (Q7351) harassed the enemy in REYERSVILLER (Q7549) with mortar fire. The 2d Battalion in reserve near (Q7046) conducted training and reconnoitered for reserve positions.

(4) All units of the 397th Infantry were engaged in improvement of defensive positions. Two P-47's with enemy markings strafed the regimental CP in the vicinity of ROHRBACH (Q6550). No reports were received of enemy artillery activity. At 0500 an 8 man enemy patrol attempted to infiltrate through the right flank of the 1st Battalion near (Q7153), but the effort was repulsed and 1 enemy was killed. At the end of the period the 3d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q7351) - (Q7254) - (Q6954) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve in the vicinity of (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division improved its defensive positions. Sporadic enemy artillery fire was received, but the enemy made no offensive moves.

(1) No change occurred in the location of units of the 71st Infantry. Further progress was made in the improvement of defensive positions and the front was vigorously patrolled. No contact with the enemy was reported although moderate artillery fire and sporadic small arms fire was received. The three Battalions held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453) with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left.

(2) The 114th Infantry (1st Battalion 324th Infantry attached) maintained and improved its defensive positions. There were no reports received of artillery fire in the sector. Small patrols of the 2d Battalion encountered and dispersed a small enemy force along the immediate front of the sector. The line: (Q6453) - (Q6252) - (Q5955) was held by all three Battalions with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion 324th Infantry remained in reserve at WOELFLING (Q5954).

(3) Intermittent artillery, mortar, and small arms fire was received by front line units of the 255th Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division). All elements improved their positions without change along the line: (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5659) - (Q5458). The 3d Battalion was on the right and the 2d Battalion was on the left. The 1st Battalion remained in reserve near (Q5454).

(4) The 253d Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) held and improved its defensive positions. There were no reports of enemy artillery fire being received during the period. A patrol dispatched the preceding day returned with 3 prisoners captured in the vicinity of HANWEILER (Q5057). Another patrol was dispatched late in the period to attack enemy personnel located in barracks near (Q5059). The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5458) - (Q5057), with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion in reserve in the vicinity of (Q5255).

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(5) The 324th Infantry ~~was~~ organized and improved secondary defensive positions. The 3d Battalion held the positions between WITTRING (Q5650) and ACHEN (Q6049), and the 2d Battalion held the position between ACHEN - ROHRBACH (Q6550). The 1st Battalion remained attached to the 114th Infantry.

c. The 101st Airborne Division closed in the DRULINGEN (Q6030) - SARRALTROFF (Q5019) area at 2100.

d. CCB 10th Armored Division continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screen in the Corps sector south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE RIVER. A thorough route reconnaissance and terrain study was made for suitable counter-attack routes to the northeast, north, and northwest.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired 12 counterbattery and 22 observed registration and harassing missions along the Corps front. A total of 15 prepared missions was fired in the area north of SARREGUEMINES (Q5157) and in the vicinity of RIMLING (Q6555) and VOLMUNSTER (Q7258).

f. A flight of 3 enemy aircraft was engaged by Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery units with no claims made.

g. XV Corps Engineers maintained roads and bridges in the Corps sector in addition to assisting the divisions in construction of defenses.

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew two missions in support of XV Corps: 12 planes bombed and strafed BITCHE (Q7750) and vicinity and reported 6 hits on the Citadel of BITCHE and 9 hits in the town. Other aircraft bombed and strafed the HOMBERG (Q7180) marshalling yards.

i. Nine prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector: the 44th Infantry Division captured 6 and the 100th Infantry Division 3.

23 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its defensive mission. The front showed increased activity over the previous period. Moderate artillery fire was received in the left portion of the Corps sector; however, physical contact with the enemy was still limited to patrol action. The 35th Infantry Division closed in assembly areas in the vicinity of DIEUZE (Q2524) and passed to the control of XV Corps.

In compliance with the orders from the Commanding General Seventh Army (15), Operations Instructions 102 XV Corps, dated 1600, 23 January, were published making the following modifications in the Corps and division boundaries. between VI Corps and XV Corps, the line: (Q8653) - (Q7938) - (Q5116) - (Q4311) inclusive to XV Corps; between the 35th and the 100th Infantry Division, the line: (Q3250) - (Q7546) - (Q7145) - (Q5535) inclusive to the 100th Infantry Division; between the 100th and 44th Infantry Divisions, the line: (temporary) (Q7355) - (Q6955) - (Q6447) - (Q6242) - (Q5539); and between XV Corps and XXI Corps, the line: (Q5260) - (Q5259) - (Q4355) - (Q3848) - (Q3242), inclusive to XV Corps.

The 35th Infantry Division was directed to relieve those elements of the 100th Infantry Division and VI Corps within its sector during the night of 24-25 January. Relief of the VI Corps elements was to be completed prior to 0001, 25 January, at which time the new boundary between XV Corps and VI Corps was to go into effect. Radio silence was to be maintained.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Sub: After Action Rpt for Jan 45, dtd 12 May 45.

The utilization of elements of the 101st Airborne Division as reserve units for the 35th and 100th Infantry Divisions and the further use of the 101st Airborne Division, less elements, as a reserve for Corps was contemplated; however, before this plan could be put into effect, new orders were received from the Commanding General Seventh Army moving the 101st Airborne Division to VI Corps.

a. The 100th Infantry Division held and improved its defensive positions. Enemy patrols were more active than during the previous period, but an alert defense quickly repulsed each effort. No enemy artillery fire was received in the sector.

(1) The 398th Infantry maintained its defensive positions on the line: (Q7540) - (Q7442) - (Q7449), with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion on the left, and the 1st Battalion in the center.

(2) The 399th Infantry improved its defensive positions. The 2d Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion in position near (Q7447) - (Q7349) and the machine gun fire which had been harassing the enemy continued. Upon relief, the 1st Battalion in regimental reserve moved to the vicinity of ENCHENBERG (Q5246). The 3d Battalion continued to improve its positions on the line: (Q7449) - (Q7351).

(3) The 397th Infantry continued to prepare and improve its positions. No changes were made in the position of units. The line: (Q7351) - (Q7254) - (Q6954) was held by the 3d and 1st Battalions with the latter unit on the left. The 2d Battalion continued in reserve in the vicinity of (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions. The enemy continued his passive yet alert attitude and employed sporadic artillery fire to harass the sector.

(1) No changes were made in the positions of units of the 71st Infantry. Artillery and sporadic small arms fire was received on the front lines and harassing fire fell on BETTVILLER (Q6753). Patrols reported no contact with the enemy. The line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453) was held with three battalions abreast: the 3d Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center and the 1st Battalion on the left.

(2) The 114th Infantry (1st Battalion 324th Infantry attached) improved its defensive positions. No enemy artillery fire was received. The line: (Q6453) - (Q6252) - (Q5955) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion on the left, and the 2d Battalion in the center. The 1st Battalion 324th Infantry continued in reserve near WOELFELING (Q5954).

(3) Intermittent artillery, mortar, and small arms fire was received on the front line positions of the 255th Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division). Some sniper fire was received in the 3d Battalion sector. Positions of all units remained unaltered; the 3d and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5659) - (Q5458) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q5454).

(4) The 253d Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) maintained and improved its defensive positions. No enemy artillery fire fell in the sector. At the beginning of the day, a combat patrol crossed the SAARF RIVER.

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from an outpost position near (Q50557) from the vicinity of the woods near (Q5058) the enemy opened fire on the patrol with small arms and automatic weapons. In the fire fight which ensued three enemy were believed killed. The patrol then returned to the outpost and directed artillery fire on the woods. All units held their positions with the 1st and 3d Battalions holding the line: (Q5458) - (Q5057). The 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q5255).

(5) The 324th Infantry (less the 1st Battalion attached to the 114th Infantry) remained in division reserve with the 3d Battalion along the line: WITTRIN (Q5650) - ACHEN (Q6059) and the 2d Battalion along the line: ACHEN - ROHRBACH (Q6550).

c. The 101st Airborne Division prepared to move to the VI Corps.

d. CCB 10th Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE RIVER. Plans were completed for counterattack to the northeast, north, and northwest.

e. The 35th Infantry Division (less RCT 134) moved from METZ to an assembly area in the vicinity of DIEUZE (Q2524) and closed at 1555. It then prepared to relieve elements of both the 100th Infantry Division and VI Corps in position.

(1) RCT 137 closed in an area in the vicinity of CHATEAU-VOUE (Q1828) at 1555.

(2) RCT 320 closed in an area near BIDESTROFF (Q3028) at 1530.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 11 counterbattery and 22 prepared harassing missions in the area north of RIMLING (Q6555) and in the vicinity of ZIEBRUCKEN (Q7272). There were 29 harassing missions fired during the day on enemy personnel along the front. 240mm Howitzers using "POZIT" fuzes fired a mission in the area of BITCHE (Q7750). The purpose of this mission was to give our observers an opportunity to observe the effects of the new fuze.

g. XV Corps Engineers maintained the roads and bridges in the Corps area and assisted the divisions in construction of defenses.

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew six flights of 12 planes each over the Corps area. The ammunition dumps near (V8651) and the supply dumps at (Q977935) were bombed with reported excellent results. One hundred cars of coal were bombed in KAISERLAUTERN (R0294). Road and rail traffic was bombed and strafed in areas to the front of the XV Corps sector.

i. One prisoner was taken in the Corps sector being captured by the 100th Infantry Division.

24 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued to improve its defensive positions. The enemy maintained a passive but alert defense. Some enemy patrols probed our front lines. Intermittent enemy artillery fire was received. The 35th Infantry Division began the relief of units in the right portion of the Corps sector as prescribed in Operations Instructions 102 XV Corps.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Sub: After Action Rpt for Jan 45, dtd 12 May 45.

Operations Instructions 103 XV Corps, dated 2100, 24 January, was published announcing (in compliance with Operations Instructions 70 Seventh Army, 24 January) the relief of the 101st Airborne Division from attachment to XV Corps and its attachment to VI Corps. Movement to the vicinity of HAGUENAU (RO 424) was directed to commence 25 January.

Verbal orders were received from the Commanding General Seventh Army ordering XV Corps to prepare to assume command of both the troops and the sector of XXI Corps.

a. The 35th Infantry Division moved to a new assembly area in the vicinity of TIEFFENBACH (Q6434) where it began relief of elements of the 100th Infantry Division and VI Corps.

(1) The 320th Infantry closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of WINGEN (Q7335) and by 2110 had completed the relief of the 274th Infantry then attached to 45th Infantry Division VI Corps. The 3d Battalion occupied positions near (Q7737), the 1st Battalion held the line: (Q7638) - (Q7539), and the 2d Battalion remained in reserve at WINGEN.

(2) The 137th Infantry moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of SOUCHT (Q7040) where it began relief of the 398th Infantry 100th Infantry Division in position. The 1st Battalion relieved the 2d Battalion 398th Infantry at 2400 on the line: (Q7540) - (Q7442). The 3d Battalion and 2d Battalion took up positions near (Q7243) and (Q7244), respectively, and prepared to relieve the remainder of the 398th Infantry on 25 January.

b. The 100th Infantry Division continued to defend without change of positions. Enemy patrols were slightly more aggressive than during previous periods but only light mortar fire was received in the center of the sector and no artillery fire was reported. Relief of the 398th Infantry by elements of the 35th Infantry Division was begun.

(1) The 398th Infantry strengthened its defenses during the day. At night aggressive enemy patrols were beaten off. Elements of the 35th Infantry Division relieved the 2d Battalion 398th Infantry in position at 2400. Upon relief, the 2d Battalion moved to the vicinity of FETIT REDERCHING (Q6850). The 1st Battalion 398th Infantry remained near (Q7443), and the 3d Battalion remained near (Q7146).

(2) Occasional light mortar fire was received on the front line positions of the 399th Infantry. The 2d and 3d Battalions on the line: (Q7546) - (Q7351) continued to harass the enemy at every opportunity with machine gun, mortar, and 57mm fire. The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of ENCHENBERG (Q7146).

(3) All units of the 397th Infantry consolidated and improved their front line positions along a quiet front. The line: (Q7351) - (Q7254) - (Q6954) was held by the 3d and 1st Battalions with the latter on the left. The 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q7151).

c. The 44th Infantry ~~continued to defend~~ and improved its front line positions while making every effort to provide ~~support~~ for its troops. The front was more active than for several days. There ~~was~~ patrol and sniper activity and intermittent artillery fire was received.

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(1) All units of the 7th ~~ARMY~~ and their defensive positions throughout the period. The only ~~action~~ encountered was sporadic artillery and small arms fire on the front lines. The three Battalions abreast held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left.

(2) The 114th Infantry with the 1st Battalion 324th Infantry attached, improved its defensive positions throughout the period. The line: (Q6453) - (Q6252) - (Q5955) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion 324th Infantry remained in reserve at WOELFLING (Q5954).

(3) The 255th Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) held its positions. Enemy automatic weapon and small arms fire increased over the previous period. The 3d and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5659) - (Q5458) with the 3d Battalion on the left. Both Battalions were subjected to sniper fire as well as to mortar and artillery fire. The 1st Battalion remained in reserve near (Q5454).

(4) The 253d Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) continued to maintain and improve its defensive positions. No contact with the enemy was reported, and no artillery fire was received. The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5458) - (Q5057) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve near (Q5255).

(5) The 324th Infantry remained in reserve and conducted small arms training. The 3d Battalion was in the area: WITTRING (Q5650) - ACHEN (Q6049) and the 2d Battalion was in the area: ACHEN - ROHRBACH (Q6550). The 1st Battalion remained attached to the 114th Infantry.

d. The 101st Airborne Division continued its program of rehabilitation and training in the vicinity of DRULINGEN (Q5929), preparatory to joining VI Corps.

e. CCB 10th Armored Division maintained the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE. There was no change in the dispositions of its units.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 9 counterbattery missions. Nineteen observed and 41 prepared harassing missions were fired in the area from RILLING (Q6555) to BITCHE (Q7750).

g. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps sector and to assist the divisions in construction of their fortifications.

h. XII Tactical Air Force sent 84 aircraft over the Corps sector, but no support was possible due to adverse weather conditions.

i. No prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the day.

25 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps maintained and improved its front line positions. Enemy arty fire was intermittent. The front was slightly more active than during the previous period. Enemy patrols increased their activities.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Sub: After Action Rpt for Jan 45, dtd 12 May 45.

Field Order 19, XV Corps dated 1700, 25 January 1945, was published announcing the assumption by XV Corps of command of the XXI Corps sector and its troops (10th Armored Division (less CCB), Task Force HERREN, consisting of the 275th and 276th Infantry Regiments, and the 106th Cavalry Group) effective 1100, 25 January with no change in the XV Corps mission. (18) The new XV Corps and subordinate unit boundaries were as follows: between VI Corps and XV Corps the line (unchanged): (Q8653) - (Q7938) - (Q5116) - (Q4311); between 35th Infantry Division and the 100th Infantry Division the line: (Q8053) - (Q7850) - (Q7445) - (Q6942) - (Q6839) - (Q6236) - (Q6035) - (Q5733) - (Q5228); between the 100th Infantry Division and the 44th Infantry Division the line: (Q7365) - (Q7059) - (Q6851) - (Q6346) - (Q6146) - (Q5539) - (Q4938) - (Q4233); between the 44th Infantry Division and Task Force HERREN the line: (Q5963) - (Q5057) - (Q4751) - (Q4049) - (Q3848) - (Q3847) - (Q3777) - (Q3242); between Task Force HERREN and the 106th Cavalry Group the line: (Q4068) - (Q2558) - (Q1955) - (Q1650); between XV Corps (106th Cavalry Group) and XX Corps the line: (Q4380) - (Q3477) - (Q3274) - (Q2368) - (Q0958).

a. The 35th Infantry Division (less RCT 134) organized the positions taken over from elements of the VI Corps and the 100th Infantry Division. There was no report of any contact with the enemy nor of any artillery fire being received in the Division sector.

(1) The 320th Infantry maintained and improved its positions of the previous day. No contact with the enemy was reported. The 3d Battalion was near (Q7737), the 1st Battalion was on the line: (Q7638) - (Q7539), and the 2d Battalion was in reserve in WINGEN (Q7335).

(2) The 137th Infantry completed the relief of the remainder of the 398th Infantry 100th Infantry Division at 0230. At the close of the period the battalions were in position on the line: (Q7541) - (Q7443) - (Q7444) - (Q7546), with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion on the left, and the 3d Battalion in the center.

b. The 100th Infantry Division continued to defend its front line positions. Patrols were aggressive, but no close contact with the enemy was reported. Intermittent artillery fire was received along the front.

(1) The 399th Infantry continued to improve its front line positions. Intermittent artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the sector. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7349) - (Q7447) - (Q7451). The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the area: GLASSENBERG (Q7374) - LALBACH (Q7248) - SIERSTHAL (Q7149).

(2) Light artillery and mortar fire was received on the front line positions of the 397th Infantry. Positions were further organized and were constantly improved. The line: (Q7452) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) - (Q6955) was held by the 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "G". The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q7151).

(3) Relief of the 398th Infantry by the 137th Infantry 35th Infantry Division was completed. The 1st Battalion was relieved in position at 0230 and moved to the vicinity of ENCHENBERG (Q7146). The 3d Battalion adjusted its positions in the vicinity of LEMBERG (Q7344). The 2d Battalion prepared defensive positions at PETIT REDERCHING (Q7144).

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c. The 44th Infantry Division held its defensive positions. Patrols and raiding parties were active. Some artillery fire was received along the front lines.

(1) The defensive positions of the 71st Infantry were improved although hampered by artillery and small arms fire falling on the front line positions throughout the period. The 3d, 2d and 1st Battalions, in that order from right to left, held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453).

(2) The 114th Infantry (1st Battalion 324th Infantry attached) continued to improve its positions. A raid by Company "L" with one medium tank in support began at 0730. Pillboxes near (Q5955) were destroyed by tank fire and as a result the enemy was forced to evacuate them. Three enemy were killed and three more were seriously wounded in this action. The pillboxes at (Q5955) were occupied by the raiding party. At 1410 a counterattack by an estimated force of 20 to 30 enemy was repulsed by small arms and mortar fire. The three battalions of the regiment held the line: (Q6453) - (Q6252) - (Q5955) with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion 324th Infantry was in reserve in the vicinity of WOELFELING (Q5954).

(3) The 255th Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) held and improved its positions on a quiet front. No artillery fire was received throughout the day. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5659) - (Q5758) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion remained in reserve near (Q5454).

(4) No artillery fire was received in the sector of the 253d Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division). At 0330 a combat patrol of 10 men crossed the SARRE RIVER at (Q5157) and captured a five man enemy patrol carrying a machine gun. At 0600 a patrol of 25 men of the 3d Battalion crossed the SARRE RIVER and searched the buildings near (Q5057) and (Q4957); however, no enemy installations were found. The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5458) - (Q5057) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q5255).

(5) The 324th Infantry, less the 1st Battalion, continued to occupy and improve reserve defensive positions as well as to train its reinforcements. The 3d Battalion was on the line: WITTLING (Q5650) - ACHEN (Q6049) and the 2d Battalion along the line: ACHEN - ROHRBACH (Q6550).

d. Task Force HERREN passed to control of XV Corps at 1100 and continued to improve defensive positions and to patrol to the front. There was no report of any enemy activity.

(1) The 275th Infantry developed its defensive positions. Active patrols and small raiding parties captured four prisoners. The line: (Q5057) - (Q4960) - (Q4362) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion with Company "L" on the left. The remainder of the 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q4357).

(2) The sector of the 276th Infantry was patrolled vigorously, but no enemy was encountered and no artillery fire was received. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4262) - (Q3963) - (Q3665) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q3561).

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Sub: After Action Rpt for Jan 45, dtd 12 May 45.

c. The 10th Armored Division prepared plans to counter any enemy penetration of the Corps sector.

(1) CCA prepared plans to counterattack in either the 106th Cavalry Group sector or in the Task Force HERREN sector. Training was conducted in training areas near CAPEL (Q3552).

(2) CCR prepared plans for employment in the Corps zone in assembly areas in the vicinity of FAULQUEMONT (Q1750). A program of maintenance, training and rehabilitation was continued.

(3) CCB 10th Armored Division maintained and extended to the east the counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGNOT LINE. Units not thus engaged continued training in an assembly area northeast of FENETRANGE (Q4727).

f. The 101st Airborne Division began its movement to VI Corps as directed by the Commanding General Seventh Army and Operations Instructions 103 XV Corps.

(1) The 327th Glider Infantry Regiment and the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment moved to the VI Corps sector during the period.

(2) The 502d and 506th Parachute Infantry Regiments conducted a training program and made preparations for movement to the VI Corps sector.

g. The sector of the 106th Cavalry Group was quiet; patrols were active, but no enemy was encountered. Occasional sniper fire was reported.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied defensive positions along the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370). Patrols encountered some sniper fire, but failed to locate the enemy.

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron held and improved its defensive positions without interference. Patrols covered the front along the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174).

h. XV Corps Artillery fired six counterbattery missions during the period. In the area of RILLING (Q6555) and BITCHE (Q7750), eighteen harassing missions were fired. A program of 26 harassing and roadrunner missions was fired during the night in the area: RILLING - VOLMUNSTER (Q7263) - BITCHE.

i. XV Corps Engineers maintained and improved roads and bridges in the Corps sector. Divisions were given assistance in the preparation of defensive positions.

j. Adverse weather conditions made it impracticable for XII Tactical Air Force to furnish XV Corps with close air support.

k. Three prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 1, the 100th Infantry Division 1, and Corps troops 1.

26 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps maintained and improved its position along a quiet front. Enemy

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patrol activity was light and only moderate artillery fire was received. The 101st Airborne Division passed to the control of VI Corps.

a. The 35th Infantry Division continued to hold and to improve its defensive positions. There was no enemy patrol activity or enemy artillery fire during the period. RCT 134 remained attached to the 6th Armored Division in the First Army sector.

(1) The 320th Infantry held and improved its positions of the previous day without making contact with the enemy. The 3d Battalion was near (Q770375), the 1st Battalion held the line: (Q7638) - (Q7539), and the 2d Battalion remained in reserve at WINGEN (Q7335).

(2) The 137th Infantry made no change in the disposition of its units, although positions were improved. Patrols made no contact with the enemy and no artillery fire was received. The three Battalions abreast, held the line: (Q7541) - (Q7443) - (Q7444) - (Q7546) with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

b. The 100th Infantry Division maintained and improved its defensive positions. Moderate enemy artillery fire was received throughout the day. Patrols were active during the night.

(1) The 3d Battalion 398th Infantry remained in defensive positions north of LEMBERG (Q7344). The 1st Battalion at ENCHENBERG (Q7146) and the 2d Battalion at PETIT REDERCHING (Q6850) continued to improve defensive positions in the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) The 399th Infantry maintained and improved front line positions. Some small arms, mortar, and artillery fire was received throughout the period, but no physical contact with the enemy occurred. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7349) - (Q7447) - (Q7451); the 1st Battalion was in reserve in the area: GLASSEMBERG (Q7374) - LAMBACH (Q7248) - SIERSTHAL (Q7149).

(3) The 397th Infantry continued its defensive mission. Light artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the day. The 1st and 3d Battalions together with Company "G" held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) - (Q6955). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q716514).

c. Front line units of the 44th Infantry Division continued to maintain and improve their positions. Light enemy artillery fire was received in some sectors. Only one enemy patrol was encountered.

(1) The 71st Infantry maintained its defensive positions under intermittent artillery and small arms fire. Patrols made no contact with the enemy. The three battalions abreast held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion on the left, and the 2d Battalion in the center.

(2) The 114th Infantry with 1st Battalion 324th Infantry attached remained on the defensive. A small enemy patrol was intercepted in the vicinity of the 2d Battalion and was driven off after one German was killed. Outposts were manned and patrols were dispatched, but no other contact with the enemy occurred. The sector was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Bat-

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talion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left of the line: (Q6453) -
(Q6252) - (Q5955). The 1st Battalion 324th Infantry was in reserve at CELESTINE
(Q5954).

(3) The 255th Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) defended and improved its front line positions. Patrols were active, but no contact with the enemy occurred. The 3d Battalion was relieved in position by the 1st Battalion. Upon relief the 3d Battalion prepared to move to WOELELING (Q5954) to relieve the 1st Battalion 324th Infantry. At the close of the period the 1st and 2d Battalion held the line: (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5659) - (Q5758).

(4) The 253d Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) maintained and improved its defensive positions. No contact with the enemy was made, and no artillery fire was received. A reconnaissance patrol was dispatched, but returned with negative results. The 1st Battalion moved to reserve positions near (Q5255) after being relieved in position by the 2d Battalion. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5458) - (Q5057).

(5) The 324th Infantry maintained and improved reserve positions in the MAGINOT LINE. The 3d Battalion was in the area: WITTRING (Q5650) - ACHEN (Q6049), and the 2d Battalion along the line: ACHEN - ROHRBACH (Q6550). The 1st Battalion remained attached to the 114th Infantry.

d. Task Force HERRREN continued to improve its positions. Patrols captured several prisoners. No artillery fire was received in the sector.

(1) The 275th Infantry continued to improve its defenses. Patrols captured four prisoners. The 2d and 1st Battalions with Company "L" held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4960) - (Q4362). The remainder of the 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q4357).

(2) The 276th Infantry occupied and improved its positions. The front was patrolled vigorously. Two prisoners were captured. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (03963) - (03665). The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (03561).

e. The 101st Airborne Division cleared the XV Corps sector at 1530 enroute to VI Corps. The division passed to control of VI Corps upon arrival in that sector.

f. The 10th Armored Division, less CCB, remained in Corps reserve out of contact with the enemy.

(1) CCA, alert to repulse any counterattack in the sectors of the 106th Cavalry Group or Task Force HERREN, conducted training in the CAPEL (3352) area.

(2) CCR as division reserve prepared for its employment in the Corps sector. Training was conducted while an alert status was maintained. All units remained in the FAULQUEMONT (91750) area.

(3) CCB 10th Armored Division maintained a counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE RIVER and south of the MAGINOT LINE. Units not thus engaged continued training in an area ~~located~~ **located** south of FENETRANCE (94727).

g. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained its positions and patrolled actively. No artillery fire was received; no enemy patrols were contacted.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied and improved its defensive positions. Patrols made no contact with the enemy, but outposts observed approximately 10 enemy in the vicinity of (Q3366). The squadron held the line. (Q3665) - (Q3370).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained and improved positions within its sector along the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174). Patrols reached a point near (Q3174) without making contact with the enemy.

h. XV Corps Artillery fired nine counterbattery missions. Twenty-six observed registration and harassing missions and fifteen unobserved harassing missions were fired along the front. Twenty-four prepared harassing missions were fired during the night in the area: SAEERBRUCKEN (Q4571) - BITCHE (Q7750).

i. XV Corps Engineers completed a 450 foot combination bridge, a 150 foot Bailey bridge, a 46 foot simple stringer bridge, and a 254 foot earth fill to bridge a gap at (Q533549). Another bridge near (Q371634) was completed. In addition, roads and bridges in the Corps area were maintained and assistance was given to the divisions in the preparation of field fortifications.

j. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with two flights totalling 24 sorties. HOMBERG (Q7180) and the railroad bridge and 20 cars near (Q8949) were bombed. The railroad was reported cut and the 20 cars were damaged. Adverse weather conditions prevented close air support.

k. Eleven prisoners were captured in the Corps sector: the 35th Infantry Division captured 1, the 44th Infantry Division 4, the 100th Infantry Division 4, and Task Force HERREN 2.

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XV Corps continued its defensive mission. Our patrols on all sectors of the front were very active; however, the enemy defense was more aggressive than it had been during previous periods. Light to moderate artillery fire was received on front line positions.

Operations Instructions 104, XV Corps, dated 1930, 27 January, was published readjusting the defense plans of those units taken over from XXI Corps as follows:

The 10th Armored Division (less Division Artillery, CCB, and Task Force STANDISH) was directed to concentrate in the BAUDRECOURT (Q0641) area and to establish and maintain a counterreconnaissance screen between the SARRE RIVER and the Corps left (west) boundary to intercept and destroy any infiltration of enemy armor. Plans for counterattacks to the east, northeast, or north were to be prepared and submitted to XV Corps. The Division Artillery was instructed to continue its former mission of supporting the 44th Infantry Division, Task Force HERREN, and the 106th Cavalry Group. Task Force STANDISH composed of the 61st Armored Infantry Battalion (less Company "C"), Company "C" 11th Tank Battalion, and the 1st Platoon Company "F", 609th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to Task Force HERREN as a reserve for that unit to be employed intact and on Corps order only. CCB was directed to continue its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE RIVER and to continue preparations

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for counterattack in the Corps sector east of the SARRE RIVER.

Task Force HERREN was instructed to prepare to defend ST AVOLD (Q2536) and to organize and defend on successive positions. The defense was to be coordinated with the units to the right and to the left. DECLASSIFIED

The 106th Cavalry Group was directed to organize and defend on successive positions and to coordinate its defense with the units to its right and left.

a. The 35th Infantry Division (less RCT 134) continued to hold and improve its positions during the period. No reports were received of any contacts with the enemy nor of any artillery fire having been received.

(1) The 320th Infantry remained in its positions of the previous day. Patrols returned with negative reports. The 1st Battalion was relieved in position along the line: (Q7638) - (Q7539) by the 2d Battalion. Upon relief, the 1st Battalion moved to reserve positions at WINGEN (Q7335). The 3d Battalion remained in position near (Q7737).

(2) The 137th Infantry remained in its positions of the previous period. The line: (Q7541) - (Q7443) - (Q7444) - (Q7546) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion on the left, and the 3d Battalion in the center.

b. The 100th Infantry Division continued to defend without change of positions. Aggressive patrolling was undertaken by all units. Sporadic artillery fire was received on some sections of the front.

(1) The 398th Infantry maintained and improved its positions. The 3d Battalion remained in defensive positions north of LEMBERG (Q7344) and received occasional mortar fire. Patrols of the 3d Battalion encountered Schu mines to the immediate front. The 1st Battalion improved its defensive positions east of ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 2d Battalion performed a similar function in the vicinity of FETIT REDERCHING (Q6850). At 1100 the 3d Battalion was attached to the 399th Infantry.

(2) Intermittent artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the sector of the 399th Infantry. A patrol of the 3d Battalion approached the buildings at FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551) before being detected. It was fired upon by an estimated 20 to 30 enemy with machine guns, mortars, and small arms and was forced to withdraw. Patrols of the 2d Battalion probed enemy positions in the vicinity of STEINKOPF (Q7449) and captured 3 prisoners near (Q742487). The 2d and 3d Battalions and the 3d Battalion 398th Infantry held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7349) - (Q7451) with the 3d Battalion 398th Infantry on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the area: GLASSENBERG (Q7347) - LAMBACH (Q7248) - SIERSTHAL (Q7149).

(3) The 397th Infantry was subjected to harassing mortar fire throughout the period. However, no artillery fire was received. A raiding party reconnoitered previously established enemy positions south of EPPING-URBACH (Q6957) and found them unoccupied. The 1st and 3d Battalions plus Company "G" held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) - (Q6955) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The remainder of the 2d Battalion (Q7151). DECLASSIFIED

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c. Both friendly and enemy activity was reported in the sector of the 44th Infantry Division. Moderate ~~artillery~~ small arms fire was received in some sectors. All units maintained and improved their positions.

(1) Sporadic artillery and small arms fire was received on the front line positions of the 71st Infantry. Each battalion sent out a 16 man patrol at 2000 to capture prisoners. The 2d Battalion patrol returned with 3 prisoners; the 3d Battalion patrol captured 2. The 1st Battalion patrol became involved in a fire fight but disengaged itself, and continued on its mission. It had not returned at the close of the period. The 3d, 2d, and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453) with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left.

(2) The 114th Infantry held its defensive positions in close contact with enemy patrols. At 0515 the 2d Battalion encountered a 10 man enemy patrol and in the fire fight that ensued one of the enemy was killed or wounded, one was captured, and the remainder was forced to withdraw. An enemy patrol was encountered while elements of the 2d Battalion was attempting to occupy an outpost position near (Q6154). A fire fight ensued, the enemy withdrew, and elements of the 2d Battalion occupied the position. Elements of the 3d Battalion were attacked in position at 1540 by an estimated 20 enemy. The attack was repulsed after 5 of the enemy were killed and 2 were wounded. Other elements of the 3d Battalion located an enemy OP just after dark and forced its withdrawal. The 3d Battalion 255th Infantry closed in WOELFLING (Q5954) at 1130 and relieved the 1st Battalion 324th Infantry which cleared WOELFLING at 1354. The 1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q6453) - (Q6252) - (Q5955) with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(3) The 255th Infantry continued to defend without change of position. At 0600 a 2d Battalion patrol crossed the BLIES RIVER near (Q5758) and reconnoitered enemy positions. The 3d Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion 324th Infantry in position at WOELFLING at 1130. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5659) - (Q5758) with the 1st Battalion on the right.

(4) The sector of the 253d Infantry was generally quiet. No contact with the enemy was reported and no artillery fire was received. Additional work was accomplished on reserve positions. The line: (Q5458) - (Q5057) was held by the 2d and 3d Battalions with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q5255).

(5) The 324th Infantry occupied and improved its reserve MAGINOT LINE positions. The training and rehabilitation program was continued. The 1st Battalion reverted to regimental control at 1415 and assembled in a reserve assembly area in the vicinity of KALHAUSEN (Q5747). The 3d Battalion was in position from WITTRING (Q5650) to ACHEN (Q6049) and the 2d Battalion from ACHEN to ROHRBACH (Q6550).

d. Task Force HERREN maintained its defensive positions. Patrolling continued, but no contact with the enemy was reported. No artillery fire fell in the sector.

(1) The 275th Infantry held its defensive positions. Seven reconnaissance patrols dispatched returned without prisoners. The 2d and 1st Battalions with Company "L" held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4960) - (Q4362) with the 2d Battalion

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on the right. The remainder of the 3d Battalion was near (14357-

(2) The 276th Infantry made no change in its defensive positions. Patrols failed to capture any prisoners. The line: (04262) - (03963) - (03665) was held by the 2d and 3d Battalions with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (03561).

5. The 10th Armored Division remained in Corps reserve alerted for immediate employment.

(1) OCA was prepared to repulse a counterattack in the sector of the 106th Cavalry Group or Task Force HERRIN. Training was conducted at CAPPEL (Q3552

(2) CCR prepared for employment in addition to conducting a limited training program at FOULQUEMONT (01750).

(3) CCB 10th Armored Division maintained the counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE RIVER and prepared plans for counterattack in the sector east of the SARRE RIVER. Units not thus engaged continued training in an assembly area northeast of FENETRANGE (04727).

f. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained its positions. Patrols were active, sighting the enemy on several occasions. The front was quiet and no artillery fire was reported.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved its defensive positions. Patrols were active, locating the enemy along the line: (Q3566) - (Q3568) - (Q3567). Rail and vehicular traffic was heard in FORBACH (Q3965). No changes were made in the dispositions of the troops on the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370)

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied and improved its defensive positions of the previous day. Patrols were dispatched and one reached the vicinity of (Q3273) without contacting the enemy. Troop "A" at 2105 dispersed a 6 man patrol and later a 30 man patrol near (Q3272) with small arms and artillery fire.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 14 counterbattery missions during the period. One observed mission and 33 unobserved missions were fired on the Corps front. Prepared harassing missions were fired during the night in the area: HORNBAACH (07365) - VOLMUNSTER (07256) - SARREBRUCKEN (04671).

h. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road and bridge maintenance and assisted the divisions in the preparation of defensive positions.

i. Adverse weather conditions made it impracticable for XII Tactical Air Force to furnish close air support for XV Corps.

5. Six prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period; the 44th Infantry Division captured 2 and the 100th Infantry Division 4.

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XV Corps maintained its defensive positions. The only contact with the enemy was through patrol action which captured some prisoners. Enemy artillery fire was very light.

The Commanding General Seventh Army alerted XV Corps to prepare to relieve the 35th Infantry Division on short notice.

a. The 35th Infantry Division continued to hold and improve its positions. The front was quiet; there was no contact with the enemy, and no artillery fire was received. RCT 134 remained attached to the 6th Armored Division in the First Army area.

(1) There was no change in the dispositions of the 320th Infantry. Patrols dispatched returned without having made contact with the enemy. The 3d Battalion was near (Q7737), the 2d Battalion held the line: (Q7638) - (Q7539), and the 1st Battalion was in reserve at WINGEN (Q7335).

(2) No action occurred on the front of the 137th Infantry. Friendly patrols were alert, but no close contact with the enemy occurred. The 1st, 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q7541) - (Q7443) - (Q7444) - (Q7546) with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left.

b. In the sector of the 100th Infantry Division the period passed without incident. The enemy attitude remained passive; only light artillery fire was received.

(1) The 399th Infantry (3d Battalion 398th Infantry attached) continued to improve its defensive positions without change in location. Enemy contact was close and occasional sniper fire was received. Some elements were subjected to moderate mortar fire. The 3d Battalion 398th Infantry maintained its position north of LEMBERG (Q7344). The 2d and 3d Battalions 399th Infantry held the line (Q7448) - (Q7349) - (Q7447) - (Q7451). The 1st Battalion, in reserve, continued to train reinforcements at GLASSENBERG (Q7347), LALBACH (Q7248), and SIERSTHAL (Q7149).

(2) The 397th Infantry adjusted and improved its front line positions under sporadic artillery and mortar fire. Active patrolling continued, but no contact with the enemy was reported. The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "G" held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) - (Q6955). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q7151).

(3) The 398th Infantry continued work on MAGINOT LINE reserve positions. The 1st Battalion was at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 2d Battalion was at PETIT REDERCHING (Q6850). The 3d Battalion remained attached to the 399th Infantry.

c. Front line units of the 44th Infantry Division maintained and improved their defensive positions. No enemy artillery fire was reported, and only one enemy patrol approached the front lines. Friendly patrols were active and some prisoners were captured.

(1) The 71st Infantry maintained its defensive positions. A patrol of the 1st Battalion dispatched during the previous night returned with 6 prisoners.

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No other contact with the enemy was made. All three Battalions held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left.

(2) The 114th Infantry (3d Battalion 255th Infantry attached) maintained its defensive positions. No contact with the enemy occurred. Plans were completed for conducting regular raids in the future. The three Battalions held the line: (Q6453) - (Q6252) - (Q5955) with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion 255th Infantry was in reserve at NOELF-LING (Q5954).

(3) The 255th Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) continued its defense without change of position. An enemy patrol which approached the front lines near (Q5955) was fired on. A friendly patrol dispatched to the vicinity of BLIESERUCK (Q5957) encountered enemy machine gun fire and was forced to withdraw. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5659) (Q5758). The 3d Battalion was attached to the 114th Infantry.

(4) The 253d Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) improved its defensive positions on a quiet front. At 0400 a 17 man patrol of the 2d Battalion raided enemy trenches in the vicinity of (Q5359) but found them unoccupied. Upon nearing the woods near (Q5359), enemy machine guns at that point and at (Q5459) opened fire. Grenades were employed to silence these guns and the patrol then returned to its lines. At 0700 a strong patrol of the 3d Battalion searched the buildings along the road from (Q5157) to (Q5057). The patrol captured 9 enemy before returning at 1315. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5458) - (Q5057). The 1st Battalion in reserve near (Q5255) continued work on the extreme left sector of the SARRE line.

(5) The 324th Infantry remained in MAGINOT LINE reserve positions. Small arms training continued. The 1st Battalion was located at KALHAUSEN (Q574). The 3d Battalion was in position along the line: WITTRING (Q5650) - ACHEN (Q6049) while the 2d Battalion occupied positions along the line: ACHEN - ROHRBACH (Q6550).

d. Task Force HERREN held and improved its defensive positions. Patrols were active, but no prisoners were captured. The front was quiet; no reports were received of enemy artillery fire.

(1) The 275th Infantry occupied and improved its defensive positions. One combat patrol and six reconnaissance patrols were dispatched. The 2d and 1st Battalions plus Company "L" held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4960) - (Q4362). The remainder of the 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q4357).

(2) The 276th Infantry maintained its positions with no change in the disposition of its units. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4262) - (Q3963) - (Q3665). The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q3561).

(3) Task Force STANDISH remained in reserve at MERIEBACH (Q3362).

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c. The 10th Armored Division (less CCB) continued its training program. The division was prepared for employment in the sectors of the 106th Cavalry Group and Task Force HERREN.

(1) CCA remained alert to counterattack in the sectors of Task Force HERREN and the 106th Cavalry Group. Task Force STANDISH was attached to Task Force HERREN at 1800, 28 January. Task Force RICHARDSON of CCR was attached to CCA. In the assembly area in the vicinity of CAPPIL (Q3552) plans were made for movement to a new location.

(2) CCR continued preparations for employment. The training program was continued and plans were completed for movement to BECHY (Q0043).

(3) CCB 10th Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE RIVER. Units not thus engaged continued training in the assembly area northeast of FENETRANGE (Q4727).

f. The 106th Cavalry Group occupied and improved its positions. No close contact with the enemy was reported and no artillery fire was received. The enemy attitude continued passive.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron made no change in the dispositions of its units. Patrols located enemy activity near (Q3471), an enemy machine gun near (Q3370), and a train near (Q3667). No enemy attempts were made to probe the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to defend in position along the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174) on a quiet front. A patrol drew machine gun and small arms fire near (Q3273) but withdrew to its own lines without casualties.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 6 counterbattery missions during the day. Groups fired 1 observed and 8 unobserved missions in the area of RIMLING (Q6555). Thirty-eight prepared harassing missions were fired during the night in the area south of SARREBRUCKEN (Q4671) and in the vicinity of ALTHEIM (Q6963) southeast to the vicinity of BITCHE (Q7750).

h. XV Corps Engineers maintained roads in the Corps sector, guarded bridges in the Corps rear areas, and assisted the divisions in the construction of defenses.

i. Adverse weather conditions made it impracticable for the XII Tactical Air Force to furnish close air support for XV Corps.

j. Sixteen prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period; the 44th Infantry Division captured 11 and Task Force HERREN 5.

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XV Corps continued its mission of aggressive defense. The only activity was that of friendly patrols probing enemy lines. Hostile artillery fire was very light, most of it falling on front line positions. The 35th Infantry Division was relieved in position by elements of both the VI Corps and that of the 100th Infantry Division. The 10th Armored Division (less CCB) concentrated in the BAUDRECOURT (Q0641) area and established a counterreconnaissance screen west

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of the SARRE RIVER. A new boundary established between VI Corps and XV Corps became effective at 2300 when the VI Corps assumed command of the sector of the 320th Infantry 35th Infantry Division. Operations Instructions 105, XV Corps, dated 1530, 29 January 1945, directed this boundary extend as follows: (Q7943) - (Q7341) - (Q6937) - (Q6434) - (Q6130) - (Q4523) - (Q5116) - (Q4381) inclusive to XV Corps.

The 274th Infantry (Task Force HERRIN) was attached to XV Corps (formerly attached to VI Corps) and further attached to the 100th Infantry Division, and ordered to move to new positions as selected by the Commanding General, 100th Infantry Division, for employment as division reserve.

The 100th Infantry Division was directed to relieve elements of the 35th Infantry Division within its new sector (formerly 100th Infantry Division sector and that portion of the 35th Infantry Division sector not taken over by VI Corps, prior to 0500, 30 January.

The Commanding General 35th Infantry Division was directed to assemble his division and to prepare to move to the area of the Ninth Army. (21)

a. The 35th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions on a quiet front. No artillery fire was received, and no close contact with the enemy occurred. At the close of the period the division was relieved in position by elements of the 100th Infantry Division and of VI Corps.

(1) The 320th Infantry remained in position throughout the period until relieved at 2300 by the 179th Infantry 45th Infantry Division of the VI Corps. Upon relief, the regiment, less the 1st Battalion, assembled in the area: PETERSBACH (Q6530) - LOHR (Q6429) - ASSMILLER (Q6231). The 1st Battalion remained at WINGEN (Q7335).

(2) The 137th Infantry held its positions on a quiet front until the close of the period at which time its relief by the 398th Infantry 100th Infantry Division was being effected. Upon relief, the regiment was directed to assemble in the area: WALDHAMBACH (Q6236) - DRULINGEN (Q6065).

b. The 100th Infantry Division maintained an aggressive defense of its positions of the previous day. Moderate artillery fire was received on front line positions in some sectors. The 398th Infantry relieved elements of the 35th Infantry Division in position.

(1) The 399th Infantry (3d Battalion 398th Infantry attached) remained in its positions. Enemy sniper, mortar, and small arms fire was received on the front lines. The 2d Battalion sent a combat patrol of platoon strength to raid enemy positions on the high ground in the vicinity of STEINKOFF (Q7449). A patrol of the 3d Battalion reconnoitered enemy pillboxes near (Q7450) and was engaged by small arms and machine guns from that point as well as from the high ground near (Q7550). The 3d Battalion 398th Infantry remained in its defensive positions north of LEMBERG (Q7244). The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7349) - (Q7447) - (Q7451) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the area: GLASSENBERG (Q7349) - LAMBACH (Q7248) - SIERSTHAL (Q7149).

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(2) The 397th Infantry continued to defend without change of position. Patrols were active, but no contact with the enemy was reported. Sporadic artillery fire was received on front line positions. At 1245 the regimental CP was strafed by three enemy planes; two were American built. The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "G" held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) - (Q6955). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q7151).

(3) The 398th Infantry maintained and improved its MAGINOT LINE reserve positions until late in the period when the 1st Battalion relieved the 2d Battalion 137th Infantry in position. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion was in the process of relieving the 3d Battalion 137th Infantry on the line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539). The 3d Battalion was attached to the 399th Infantry.

c. The front line elements of the 44th Infantry Division continued to hold their defensive positions. Patrols were active, but in only one instance was close contact reported. Moderate artillery and mortar fire was received in some sectors of the front.

(1) No changes were made in the disposition of units of the 71st Infantry. Moderate artillery fire was received on front line units. A 15 man patrol dispatched to capture prisoners and determine enemy dispositions became involved in a fire fight at 2125 which forced a withdrawal without prisoners, but important information relative to enemy dispositions was obtained. The three battalions held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453) with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left.

(2) The sector of the 114th Infantry was quiet except for some light shelling by heavy artillery in the 2d and 3d Battalion sectors at 2045. The positions of all units remained the same with the line: (Q6453) - (Q6252) - (Q5955) held with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(3) The sector of the 255th Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division) was quiet. Patrols were active, but no contact with the enemy was reported. The enemy was harassed with mortar, artillery, and machine gun fire. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5659) - (Q5758). The 3d Battalion was in reserve at WOELFLING (Q5954).

(4) The period was generally quiet for the 253d Infantry (attached to 44th Infantry Division). No artillery fire was reported as having fallen on our front lines. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5458) - (Q5057). The 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q5255).

(5) The 324th Infantry remained in its reserve positions in the MAGINOT LINE. Further small arms training was conducted there. The 1st Battalion was at KALHAUSEN (Q5747), the 3d Battalion was in position from WITTRING (Q5650) to ACHEN (Q6049), and the 2d Battalion occupied positions from ACHEN to ROHRBACH (Q6550).

d. Task Force HERREN (Task Force STANDISH attached) occupied and improved its defensive positions along a quiet front. Enemy artillery was inactive; friendly patrols made no contact with the enemy.

(1) No changes were made in the disposition of units of the 275th Infantry. The 2d and 1st Battalions and Company "L" held the line: (Q5057) -

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(Q4960) - (Q4362). The remainder of the 3d Battalion was in reserve at (Q4357).

(2) The 276th Infantry maintained and improved its positions. The sector was very quiet; contact with the enemy was light. The line: (Q4262) (Q3963) - (Q3665) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion remained in reserve near (Q3561).

(3) Task Force STANDISH remained at MERLEBACH (Q3261) alert to counter-attack any enemy offensive move in the sector.

e. The 10th Armored Division remained in Corps reserve under an alert status for possible employment in the sector of the 106th Cavalry Group of Task Force HERREN.

(1) CCA remained alert for employment while conducting a limited training program in the vicinity of SUISSE-BASSE (Q1341).

(2) CCR remained in its assembly area at BECHY (Q0143).

(3) CCB 10th Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE RIVER. Units not thus engaged conducted training in an assembly area in the vicinity of FENSTRAE (Q4727).

(4) The 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron established a counterreconnaissance screen along the MAGINOT LINE between WITTRING (Q5751) and road junction (Q1663).

f. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained its defensive positions. No enemy action occurred; no artillery fire was received. One strong raid was made during the day.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to improve secondary positions. No contact with the enemy was reported. The squadron held the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its positions without change. One platoon of Troop "A", reinforced with light tanks and supported by artillery and mortar fire, raided the southwest portion of SCHAFFHAUSEN (Q3273) at 1600. Strong opposition was received from small arms, machine guns and bazookas located at (Q3273), the patrol killed 11 enemy and captured 7. Two American tanks disabled in the town on 2 January were still intact but heavy enemy small arms fire prevented recovery or destruction. Units held the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 18 counterbattery missions during the period. Thirty observed missions were fired on enemy infantry, vehicles, and suspected OPs and CPs. Twenty-seven unobserved harassing missions were fired during the day. Seventeen prepared harassing missions on towns, bridges, crossroads, and road junctions were fired during the night in the area from SAARBRUCKEN (Q4671) to BITCHE (Q7750). On this date the 250th Field Artillery Battalion fired the Corps millionth shell in combat.

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h. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery engaged 8 enemy planes over the Corps sector damaging 2. Thirteen missions were fired in a field artillery role.

i. XV Corps Engineers maintained roads and bridges in the Corps sector and assisted the divisions in the construction of field fortifications.

j. XII Tactical Air Force flew a total of 35 missions, (369 sorties) to the Corps front during the day. Of these sorties, 84 were flown to the immediate front of the Corps sector, while the remainder were long range support missions. It was reported that thirty-three motor transports were destroyed and 42 damaged 10 tanks were destroyed and 19 damaged; 4 trucks and 14 horse drawn vehicles were destroyed and 8 damaged; and numerous buildings, railroad cars, marshalling yards, and a radar station were destroyed or damaged in the area; KAISERLAUTERN (Q9993) - (Q9064) - (Q9787) - BOUSSEVILLER (Q8058) - (Q6569) - (Q8067).

k. Twenty-one prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector: the 44th Infantry Division captured 1, the 35th Infantry Division 1, the 100th Infantry Division 12, and Corps troops 7.

30 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps held and improved its defensive positions. Friendly patrols maintained the light contact that had existed with the enemy for several days. Enemy artillery fire was moderate throughout the sector. The movement of the 35th Infantry Division from the XV Corps sector was in progress.

a. The 35th Infantry Division (less RCT 134 still engaged in the First Army area) commenced its movement to the north at 0700 by rail and motor. The motor column cleared FENETRANCE (Q4727) at 1550. The 1st train departed from SARREBOURG (Q5015) at 1150 and the 2d train at 1750.

b. The sector of the 100th Infantry Division was lightly harassed by artillery and mortar fire throughout the period. No close contact with the enemy occurred with the exception of sporadic sniper fire.

(1) The 1st and 2d Battalions 398th Infantry, upon completion of relief of elements of the 35th Infantry Division, maintained and improved their defensive positions. At 0600 the 3d Battalion reverted to regimental control and the 398th Infantry assumed command of the sector. The 3d Battalion patrolled to its immediate front and directed artillery fire on enemy positions, receiving in turn hostile mortar fire. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) Some mortar fire was received on positions of the 3d Battalion 399th Infantry. The remainder of the sector was quiet except for sporadic sniper and small arms fire. All units continued to harass enemy positions with machine gun and antitank gun fire. The 3d Battalion 398th Infantry, which had been attached, reverted to control of the parent unit at 0600. The 1st Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion in position at 2315, and upon relief the 3d Battalion moved to reserve positions in the area: GLASSENBACH (Q7349) - LAMBACH (Q7248) - SIERSTHAL (Q7149). The 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7349) - (Q7447) - (Q7451).

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(3) The 397th Infantry consolidated and defended its front line positions. Moderate artillery and mortar fire was received along the front of the regimental sector throughout the period. Friendly patrols were active, but no contact with the enemy was reported. The 1st and 3d Battalions plus Company "G" held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) - (Q6955). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q7151).

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(4) The 274th Infantry, attached to the 100th Infantry Division, closed in the 100th Infantry Division sector and occupied defensive positions. The 3d Battalion was at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243), the 2d Battalion was at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 1st Battalion was at MONTEBRONN (Q6844).

c. The front line units of the 44th Infantry Division continued to maintain and improve their defensive positions on a quiet front. Friendly patrols were alert along the division front, but no close contact with the enemy was made. Hostile artillery and mortar fire was light throughout the sector.

(1) No changes were made in the dispositions of units of the 71st Infantry. Plans were prepared for training reinforcements. The three battalions held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion on the left, and the 2d Battalion in the center.

(2) The 114th Infantry improved its defensive positions. The 1st Battalion occupied newly prepared positions which shortened and improved its front lines, and the 2d Battalion completed construction of a new outpost position near (Q6054). The 3d Battalion reconnoitered for a forthcoming raid. At the close of the period the battalions were abreast on the line: (Q6453) - (Q6252) - (Q6056), with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion on the left, and the 2d Battalion in the center.

(3) The 255th Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) made no change in its defensive dispositions. Patrols made no contact with the enemy, and no artillery fire was reported. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5559) - (Q5758) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in reserve at WOELFELING (Q5954).

(4) The 253d Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) held and improved its defensive positions. The period passed without incident. The front was held by the 2d and 3d Battalions from (Q5458) to (Q5057) with the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q5255).

(5) The 324th Infantry remained in its positions in the MAGNOT LINE. The 3d Battalion was in position from WITTRING (Q5650) to ACHEN (Q6049), and the 2d Battalion was in position from ACHEN to ROMBACH (Q6550). The 1st Battalion was at KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

d. Task Force HERRIN, with Task Force STANDISH attached, improved its position on a quiet front. Friendly reconnaissance patrols were active, but no contact with the enemy was reported. No reports were received of hostile artillery fire falling within the sector.

(1) The 275th Infantry occupied and improved its defensive positions. Seven reconnaissance and three combat patrols were dispatched late in the period. The 2d and 1st Battalions plus Company "L" held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4960) - (Q4362). The remainder of the 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q4357).

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(2) The 276th Infantry continued the occupation and improvement of its defensive positions on a quiet front. The 2d and 3d Battalions were on the line: (Q4262) - (Q3963) - (Q3665) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q3561).

(3) Task Force STANDISH remained at MERLENBACH (Q3261) alert for a counter-attack in the sector.

c. The 10th Armored Division remained in Corps reserve alert for employment in the sectors of the 106th Cavalry Group and Task Force HERREN.

(1) CCA remained alert for employment while conducting a limited training program in the vicinity of SUISSE-BASSE (Q1341).

(2) CCR remained in its assembly area at BECHY (Q0143).

(3) CCB 10th Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE RIVER. Units not thus engaged remained in an assembly area near MENUTRANGE (Q4727).

(4) The 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron established a counterreconnaissance screen along the MAGINOT LINE between WITTRING (Q5751) and the road junction near (Q1663).

f. The 106th Cavalry Group held its defensive positions. Friendly patrols were active, but were unsuccessful in contacting the enemy. No hostile artillery fire was received.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to improve its positions along the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370). No contact with the enemy was reported.

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved its positions without opposition. Hostile artillery was inactive. Friendly patrols maintained visual contact with the enemy, and brought artillery fire down on enemy positions at (Q3665).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 15 counterbattery missions during the period. Ten observed and 64 unobserved harassing missions were fired on crossroads, road junctions, and towns between SARRERDRUCKLIN (Q4672) and VOLMUNSTER (Q7268).

h. XV Corps Engineers maintained roads and bridges in the Corps sector and assisted the divisions in preparation of their defensive positions.

i. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish air support for XV Corps because of inclement weather.

j. Six prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period; the 100th Infantry Division captured 3 and the 44th Infantry Division captured 3.

31 JANUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its aggressive defense. Patrols maintained contact with the enemy, and some prisoners were captured. Enemy artillery activity was light. Forward elements along the front lines were harassed with small artillery concentrations. Rear areas received small concentrations of from four to six rounds during the morning, increasing to ten to twelve rounds during the afternoon, and ceasing entirely throughout the evening.

a. The 100th Infantry Division, 274th Infantry attached, defended its front without changes in positions of front line units. Light artillery and mortar fire was received in some sectors, but in general the front was quiet. Active patrols reported no contact with the enemy.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Sub: After Action Rpt for Jan 45, dtd 12 May 45.

(1) The 398th Infantry adjusted and reorganized the positions taken over from elements of the 35th Infantry Division from north of SARRIENSBERG (Q7442) to the vicinity of (Q7447). Patrols maintained only very light physical contact with the enemy. Moderate mortar fire was received by some elements of the 3d Battalion. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 399th Infantry front was more active than it had been during recent periods. The 1st Battalion continued to harass the enemy with artillery, mortar and automatic weapons fire. The 2d Battalion received intermittent artillery and mortar fire and persistent sniper fire. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7349) - (Q7447) - (Q7451) with the 1st Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion, in reserve, with elements in SIERSTHAL (Q7149), LAMBACH (Q7248), and GLASSEMBERG (Q7349), began a program of training and rehabilitation.

(3) The 397th Infantry made no changes in the disposition of its units. Increased artillery fire was received in the 1st Battalion sector, while the entire regimental front was subjected to persistent mortar fire. Patrols reported no contact with the enemy. The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "F" held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) - (Q6955) with the 1st Battalion on the left and Company "F" on the right. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q7151).

(4) All units of the 274th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) began to consolidate their reserve defensive positions. Plans were prepared for counterattacks in conjunction with units of the 100th Infantry Division. The 1st Battalion was held in mobile reserve at MONTEBRONN (Q6844). The 2d Battalion was at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion was at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. All units of the 44th Infantry Division maintained and improved their defensive positions. The front was quiet except for light artillery fire which fell in some sectors.

(1) Positions of the 71st Infantry were improved. A raiding party dispatched late in the previous period returned without prisoners but obtained valuable information relative to enemy dispositions. The three Battalions held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453), with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left.

(2) The 114th Infantry carried out routine defensive duties. Light artillery fire was received on front line elements. The three Battalions held the line: (Q6453) - (Q6252) - (Q6056) with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(3) The 255th Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) defended along its front lines. At 1910 a nine man patrol crossed the BLIES RIVER in the vicinity of (Q5658) and returned shortly thereafter with two prisoners. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5659) - (Q5758). The 3d Battalion remained at WOELTLING (Q5954).

(4) The sector of the 253d Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) was quiet; no artillery fire was reported. All units remained in defensive positions and dispatched patrols which failed to make close contact with the enemy. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5458) - (Q5057) with the

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2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q5255).

(5) The 324th Infantry maintained and improved its reserve defensive positions in the MAGINOT LINE. Preparations were begun for the relief of the 71st Infantry. The 1st Battalion was at KALHAUSEN (Q5747). The 3d Battalion occupied positions from WITTRING (Q5650) to ACHEN (Q6049), while the 2d Battalion was in position from ACHEN to ROHRBACH (Q6550).

c. The sector of Task Force HERREN (Task Force STANDISH attached) was quiet throughout the period; no artillery fire was reported. Units improved and defended their positions of the previous day.

(1) The 275th Infantry held its defensive positions. One combat and eight reconnaissance patrols were dispatched but all returned with negative results. The 2d and 1st Battalions and Company "L" held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4960) - (Q4362) with the 2d Battalion on the right and Company "L" on the left. The remainder of the 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q4357).

(2) The 276th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. A raid was conducted on the southeast portion of FORBACH (Q3965); no prisoners were captured. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4262) - (Q3963) - (Q3665) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at (Q3561).

(3) Task Force STANDISH remained at MERLEBACH (Q3261) alert to counter-attack any enemy offensive in the sector.

c. The 10th Armored Division remained in Corps reserve ready for employment in the sectors of the 106th Cavalry Group and Task Force HERREN.

(1) CCA prepared for employment while conducting a limited training program in the vicinity of SUISSE-BASSE (Q1341).

(2) CCR remained in an assembly area at BECHY (Q0143).

(3) CCB 10th Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE RIVER. Units not thus engaged remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of FENETRANGE (Q4727).

(4) The 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained a counter-reconnaissance screen along the MAGINOT LINE between WITTRING (Q5751) and road junction near (Q1663).

f. The 106th Cavalry Group improved its defensive positions. Friendly patrols were active. One enemy patrol attempting to probe friendly positions was turned back. Some heavy caliber and light mortar fire was received.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its defensive positions. Several rounds of heavy caliber artillery and intermittent mortar fire were received on front line positions. Patrols were dispatched to the vicinity of (Q3368), (Q3467), and (Q3468) but no enemy movement was observed. At 0338 a four man enemy patrol attempted to enter friendly positions near (Q3468) but was repulsed with small arms fire. The squadron held the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370).

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(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied and improved its defensive positions. The squadron held the line (Q5370) - (Q3174).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 12 counterbattery missions. Six observed and 19 unobserved harassing missions were fired during the day in the area: RILLING (Q6555) - VOLMUNSTER (Q7258) - BITCHE (Q7750). Sixteen unobserved harassing missions were fired by the 144th FA Group in the vicinity of SARREBRUCKEN (Q4672). Beginning at 1700 and continuing throughout the night, a total of 17 prepared harassing missions were fired along the front from SARREBRUCKEN to BITCHE.

h. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain the roads and bridges in the Corps sector. Assistance was given the divisions and Corps cavalry in the preparation of their defensive positions.

i. Adverse weather conditions made it impracticable for XII Tactical Air Force to furnish close air support.

j. Eight prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period; the 44th Infantry Division captured 4 and the 100th Infantry Division 4.

Report of Operations

1 - 31 January 1945

SECTION III

SUMMARY

1. Throughout the month of January XV Corps successfully carried out its mission and held firm in its defense. During the early part of the month the enemy attacked repeatedly and resolutely with the full weight of the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division in an attempt to penetrate the Corps front along the boundary between the 44th and 100th Infantry Division. These attacks forced the withdrawal of a portion of the 44th Infantry Division and the loss of GROES REIDERCHING (Q6252) and ACHEN (Q6049) which towns were subsequently retaken by the 44th Infantry Division assisted by elements of the 2d French Armored Division. Thereafter, the front settled down to stationary warfare. Through what might be termed an aggressive defense, the constant harrying of the enemy with strong raiding parties and combat patrols and the ever present threat of an offensive, a considerable body of enemy troops which might have been utilized elsewhere were held immobilized on the Corps front.

2. During the month of January 1945, XV Corps destroyed 77 enemy tanks and 1 self-propelled gun.

3. XV Corps was opposed by units of the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, the 19th Infantry Division, the 36th Infantry Division, the 257th Infantry Division, the 347th Infantry Division, and the 559th Infantry Division at various times during the month of January. The original aggregate strength of these units was cut from an approximate 12,000 to 8,750 because of casualties inflicted by XV Corps. 1,385 prisoners of war were captured.

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Wade H. Haislip

WADE H. HAISLIP
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

5 Annexes:

- 1 - Annex 1 (G-1 Data and Statistics)
- 2 - Annex 2 (G-2 Enemy Order of Battle)
- 3 - Annex 3 (Chief of Staff, General)
- 4 - Annex 4 (G-4 Supply, Transportation,
Evacuation)
- 5 - Annex 5 (G-5 (Civil Affairs) Historical
Data)

2 Incls:

- 1 - Footnotes to Summary of Operations,
XV Corps, 1 January - 31 January 1945.
- 2 - G-3 Journal and Journal File, Nos. 1
thru 31, inclusive, January 1945.

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FOOTNOTES

<u>Foot Note No.</u>	<u>January Journal Date</u>	<u>Journal Entry No.</u>	
1	6	--	Telephone conversation with CG Seventh Army 061800
2	6	76	Operations Instructions 92, XV Corps
3	7	55	Operations Instruction 56 Seventh Army
4	—	—	Letter AG 370.5, 9 Jan 1945, Sub: 7th Army Atchmt Order.
5	13	66	Operations Instruction 59, Seventh Army
6	16	6	Operations Instruction 60, Seventh Army
7	18	5 & 6	Field Message 18 Jan/ Opns Inst 62, Seventh Army
8	18	43	Movement Order
9	9	41	Seventh Army Directive Ref No. X-T55
10	20	53	Telephone Conversation, G-3 7th Army - G-3 XV Corps
11	20	42	Operations Instruction 64, Seventh Army
12	22	1	Operations Instruction 66
13	22	3	Operations Instruction 68, Seventh Army
14	21	38	Field Message to CG 100th Infantry Division
15	23	23	Operations Instruction 69, Seventh Army
16	24	66	Operations Instruction 70, Seventh Army
17	24	61	Telephone conversation
18	25	29	Operations Instruction 71, Seventh Army
19	28	51	Telephone conversation
20	25	48	Field Order No. 19, dated 1700, 25 January
21	29	33	Operations Instruction 71, Seventh Army, 29 January

Inclosure No. 1 to Ltr, Hq XV Corps
After Action Rpt for Jan 45

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SECRET
AUTH: CG XV CORPS
DATE: 31 May 45
INITIALS: *[Signature]*

APO 436, US Army
31 May 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Report After.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.
(Thru: Commanding General, Seventh Army).

In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, Change 3, and Memorandum Headquarters Seventh Army, file AG 314.7 Misc, dated 7 August 1944, the following report covering the operations of XV Corps during the period 1 February - 28 February 1945, both dates inclusive, is submitted.

INTRODUCTION

1. At the beginning of February 1945, XV Corps was composed of the 100th Infantry Division, the 44th Infantry Division (Task Force HARRIS consisting of the 253d and 255th Infantry Regiments attached), Task Force HERREN (the 275th and 276th Infantry Regiments), the 10th Armored Division, the 106th Cavalry Group, and attached Corps troops. The Corps continued its mission of aggressive defense prescribed in Field Order 15, XV Corps, dated 23 December 1944.

2. The divisions, covering a front of 46 kilometers, were disposed along the general line: SARRIENSBERG (Q7442) - LEMBERG (Q7445) - HOTTVILLER (Q7353) BETTVILLER (Q6553) - GROS RIEDERCHING (Q6252) - HABKIRCHEN (Q5660) - (Q5157) - MORSBACH (Q3763) - (Q3274), utilizing the most desirable defensive terrain features and portions of the MAGINOT LINE defense system.

Note 1: Except where specifically indicated by footnotes, all information contained in this report is based upon XV Corps Periodic Reports for February 1945.

Note 2: All hours are "A" hours (British Summer Time).

Note 3: All map references are to map GSGS, 424-9, 4416, Scale 1/100,000, France, Germany.

NARRATIVE

1. 1 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps maintained its defensive mission. Hostile artillery, which had been moderate during recent periods, showed a slight increase all along the Corps front, especially in the right sector. The enemy remained alert and reacted strongly to patrols probing his positions.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued to defend with no change in its front line positions. Sporadic hostile artillery and mortar fire was received on some sectors of the front, particularly along the line from LEMBERG (Q7445) to SARRIENSBERG (Q7446).

(1) The 398th Infantry completed adjustment and reorganization of its recently acquired positions. Enemy artillery fire in the sector was heavier than during previous periods. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 399th Infantry held and improved its front line positions. Night patrols were active; one nine man combat patrol encountered and killed four enemy on the ridge southwest of SUSSELSHOFF FARM (Q7551). A reconnaissance patrol observed enemy activity near (Q7549). The 1st Battalion continued to harass the enemy with automatic weapons and artillery fire. The 2d Battalion received extensive artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in reserve in the area; STIERSTHAL (Q7149) - LAMBACH (Q7248) - GLASSENBERG (Q7349).

(3) The 397th Infantry continued to maintain its front line positions along a quiet front. Active patrolling was continued during the hours of darkness. The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "F" held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) - (Q6955) with Company "F" on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at (Q7151).

(4) All units of the 274th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) improved their reserve switch positions and prepared counterattack plans. The 1st Battalion was in mobile reserve at MONTEBROMM (Q6844), the 2d Battalion was at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion was at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. The 44th Infantry Division held its positions on a quiet front. Raids conducted by various units met with excellent results. Hostile artillery fire was moderate with concentrations falling in the area: ORNERSVILLER (Q7059), ERCHING (Q6537), and NIEDER-GAILBACH (Q6159).

(1) The 71st Infantry maintained its positions until 1700 when preparations were begun for its relief by the 324th Infantry. Upon completion of the relief at 2245 the 71st Infantry moved to reserve positions in the MAGNOT LINE and closed at 2400. The 1st and 2d Battalions were in position along the line: WITTRING (Q5650) - ACHEN (Q6049) - ROHRBACH (Q6550) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of KALHAUSEN (Q5650).

(2) No changes were made in the dispositions of units of the 114th Infantry. At the close of the preceding day, a 20 man enemy patrol entered our lines near (Q6854) and captured one man. At 0800 a raid of platoon strength, supported by two medium tanks, was launched against enemy bunkers near (Q5955). After a brisk fight the bunkers were captured and at least four enemy killed and seven captured. Later in the period, at 2040, the enemy counterattacked in company strength and recaptured the bunkers but suffered heavy casualties in the process. A night raid on BELLEVUE FARM (Q6154) destroyed enemy installations, killed seven and wounded four; one prisoner was captured. Patrols of the 1st Battalion located unoccupied enemy entrenchments to its front. The 114th Infantry held the line: (Q6453) - (Q6252) - (Q6056) with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(3) The 255th Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) maintained its defensive positions on a quiet front. Friendly patrols reported no contact

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with the enemy. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q5955) - (Q5659) - (Q5758) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion remained at WOLFF-LING (Q5954).

(4) The 253d Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) continued to defend its positions without change. At 0400 a platoon of the 3d Battalion raided enemy positions at (Q5057). No prisoners were captured but 18 Germans were killed. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5458) - (Q5057) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q5255).

(5) The 324th Infantry maintained its MAGINOT LINE reserve positions until 1745 at which time relief of the 71st Infantry began. Command of the sector passed to the Commanding Officer 324th Infantry upon completion of the relief at 2245. At 2200 four enemy approached the positions of the 1st Battalion; one was killed, one was wounded, and two were taken prisoner. At the close of the period the three Battalions were on the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453) with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left.

c. Task Force HERREN (Task Force STANDISH attached) held and improved its defensive positions. The sector was generally quiet although sporadic artillery fire fell in the area during the latter part of the period.

(1) The 275th Infantry made no change in the dispositions of its units. Eight reconnaissance patrols were dispatched and returned with 3 prisoners. The 1st and 2d Battalion plus Company "L" held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4960) - (Q4362), with Company "L" on the left and the 1st Battalion in the center. The remainder of the 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q4357).

(2) The 276th Infantry maintained and improved its defensive positions on a quiet front. Patrols returned with one prisoner. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4262) - (Q3963) - (Q3665) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q3561).

(3) Task Force STANDISH remained at HERLEBACH (Q3261) alert to counter-attack any enemy offensive in the sector.

e. The 10th Armored Division remained in Corps reserve prepared for employment in the sectors of the 106th Cavalry Group and Task Force HERREN.

(1) CCA conducted a limited training program in the vicinity of SUISSE-BASSE (Q1341).

(2) CCR remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of BECHY (Q0143).

(3) The 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained a counterreconnaissance screen along the MAGINOT LINE between WITTING (Q5751) and the road junction near (Q1663).

(4) CCB maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARTHE River. Units not thus engaged remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of FENETRANGE (Q4727) where a training program was continued.

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f. The 106th Cavalry Group continued active patrolling from its defensive positions of the previous period. No close contact with the enemy occurred. Only light mortar fire was received in the sector.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron held and improved its defensive positions. Patrols were dispatched to (Q3368), (Q3467), (Q3468), and GRAND ROSSELLE (Q3568), but no contact with the enemy was made. During the day a total of 32 rounds of light mortar fire was received along the line (Q3665) - (Q3370).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron organized and improved secondary positions as well as front line positions. Patrols made no contact with the enemy. No changes were made in the disposition of troops along the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 20 counterbattery missions during the period. A total of 26 observed and 36 unobserved harassing missions were fired on enemy troops and vehicles along the Corps front. In addition, one enemy battery south of ERCHIM (Q6557) was the target of 300 rounds of HE, WP and Pozit during the day.

h. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road and bridge maintenance.

i. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish close air support for XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions.

j. A total of sixteen prisoners was captured during the period; the 44th Infantry Division captured 9, the 100th Infantry Division 3, and Task Force HERREN 4.

2. 2 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps maintained its aggressive defense. Normal patrol activity continued and several raids were conducted on enemy positions. Very light concentrations of enemy artillery were reported along the front lines.

Operations Instructions No. 107 XV Corps, dated 1530, 2 February, was published announcing the attachment of the 63d Infantry Division (less the 254th Infantry) (advance elements designated "Task Force HERREN") to XV Corps for operations effective 0001, 1 February 1945. Attachment of the 253d and 255th Infantry Regiments to the 44th Infantry Division for operations remained unchanged. (1) *

The boundary between the 44th Infantry Division and Task Force HERREN was altered to the new line: (Q5060) - (Q4751) - (Q4348) - ST JEAN ROHRBACH (Q3848) - (inclusive to Task Force HERREN); limiting points remained unchanged.

a. No changes were made in the dispositions of the units of the 100th Infantry Division (274th Infantry attached). Patrol activity by both friendly and hostile forces increased over that of the previous period. Heavy concentrations of artillery and mortar fire fell on the right portion of the sector; sporadic artillery fire was received in the BITCHE (Q7750) area.

(1) The 398th Infantry continued to defend without change of positions. Sporadic concentrations of artillery and mortar fire were received in the area: SARRIENSBERG (Q7441) - GOETZENBRUCK (Q7442) - LELBERG (Q7445). Night patrols met strong resistance but inflicted numerous casualties on the enemy. At 0200 a raid-

* See Footnotes - Inclosure 1.

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ing party was dispatched to attack a building at (Q7446) and while enroute, enemy infantry was observed in the vicinity of (Q7545) and enemy machine guns at (Q7545) and (Q7546). The raiding party met strong resistance from small arms, machine gun, and mortar fire which forced the party to withdraw. Five enemy were believed killed and an estimated 15 were wounded. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7559) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 399th Infantry improved its defensive positions. An enemy combat patrol, supported by a machine gun in REYERSVILLER (Q7549), probed the left flank of the 1st Battalion's positions at 2000; however, it was driven off by small arms fire. The entire regimental sector received sniper fire throughout the period. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451) with the 1st Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve in the area: SIERSTHAL (Q7149) - LAMBACH (Q7248) - GLASSELBERG (Q7349).

(3) Positions of the 397th Infantry were consolidated and improved. Active patrolling was continued. The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "F" held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) - (Q6955) with Company "F" on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (Q7151).

(4) The 274th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) continued to consolidate and improve its reserve defensive positions. The 1st Battalion was in mobile reserve in the vicinity of MONTERONN (Q6844), the 2d Battalion was at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion was at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. The 44th Infantry Division maintained and improved its defensive positions. Normal friendly patrol activity was somewhat impeded by high water. Enemy patrol activity increased in the center of the sector. Enemy artillery harassed OPs, roads, and infantry installations in the GROS REDERCHING (Q6252) area. Other areas received light, sporadic concentrations of artillery and mortar fire.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained its defensive positions in the right portion of the division sector. No direct contact with enemy infantry was made and no reports of hostile artillery were received. In position from right to left, the 2d, 3d, and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6555) - (Q6453).

(2) The 114th Infantry remained in defensive positions and conducted normal patrolling. At 1900 an estimated 30 enemy supported by machine guns and 88mm artillery attacked the 3d Battalion's positions. A 25 minute fire fight ensued after which the enemy withdrew. At 2035 an 8-man enemy patrol attacked an outpost at (Q6055); however, it was driven off by small arms fire. The 1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q6453) - (Q6252) - (Q6056) with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion on the left, and the 2d Battalion in the center.

(3) The 255th Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) maintained its defensive positions. A friendly 12-man patrol crossed the BLIES River, knocked out a machine gun at (Q5858) and captured 2 prisoners. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5659) - (Q5758) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was at WOELFLING (Q5954).

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(4) The sector of the 253d Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) was quiet. Patrol activity was greatly limited by high water. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q3458) - (Q5057) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at (Q5255).

(5) The 71st Infantry, in reserve positions, conducted a rehabilitation and training program. The 1st and 2d Battalions occupied positions in the MAGINOT LINE defenses along the line: WITTRING (Q5650) - ACHEN (Q6049) - ROHRBACH (Q6550). The 3d Battalion was at KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

c. Task Force HERREN (Task Force STANDISH attached) improved its defensive positions along a quiet front. There was no change in the passive attitude of the enemy. A few rounds of light caliber artillery fire fell in the vicinity of (Q3369).

(1) The 275th Infantry maintained and improved its defensive positions. Reconnaissance patrols were active during the period. The 1st and 2d Battalions and Company "L" held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4960) - (Q4362) with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center and Company "J" on the left. The remainder of the 3d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (Q4357).

(2) The 276th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. No contact with the enemy was reported. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4262) - (Q3963) - (Q3665) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q3557).

(3) Task Force STANDISH remained at MERLEBACH (Q3261) prepared to carry out its counterattack missions. A limited training program was carried on.

d. Additional elements of the 63d Infantry Division closed in the vicinity of SARRALBE (Q4844); Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Detachment MP Platoon, and a Detachment of the Medical Battalion closed in at 1500; the 718th Field Artillery Battalion, Headquarters Battery Division Artillery, Detachment Engineer Battalion, and Detachment Signal Company, and Detachment Quartermaster Company closed at 1720.

e. The 10th Armored Division remained in Corps reserve, prepared to counterattack in the sectors of the 106th Cavalry Group and Task Force HERREN.

(1) CCA prepared counterattack plans and conducted a limited training program in the vicinity SUISSE-BASSE (Q1341).

(2) CCR remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of BECHY (Q0143).

(3) The 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained a counterreconnaissance screen along the MAGINOT LINE between WITTRING (Q5751) and the road junction near (Q1663).

(4) CCB maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE River. Units not engaged in this mission remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of FENETRANCE (Q4727).

f. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained its defensive positions and continued patrolling. Only light mortar fire was received in the sector. No close contact with the enemy occurred.

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(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in its defensive positions of the previous period. Patrols were dispatched to the vicinity of (Q3467) (Q3368), and (Q3467), but no enemy movement was observed. Approximately 10 rounds of mortar fire were received in the sector. The squadron held the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained and improved both its primary and its secondary defensive positions. A patrol was sent to (Q3370), but no contact with the enemy was reported. The squadron held the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 22 counterbattery missions during the period. A total of 54 observed and 39 unobserved harassing missions were fired along the Corps front on suspected enemy CPs, troop concentrations, and OPs. Five prepared harassing missions were fired during the night, four west of SARREGUEMINES (Q5157) and one on RIMLING (Q6555). An attempt was made to destroy the railroad gun at HORNBACH (Q7365).

h. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery engaged three flights of enemy aircraft in the forward area of the XV Corps sector. One enemy plane was destroyed. A total of eight missions were fired in field artillery roles.

i. XV Corps Engineers maintained the roads and bridges in the Corps sector.

j. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with 42 missions totalling 467 aircraft. A total of 240 tons of bombs was dropped and 90 rockets were fired. A locomotive near (Q8289) was strafed; OERBACH (R0919) was bombed; the area in the vicinity of (Q7851) was bombed and strafed; motor transport at (R0792) was bombed; and a tank and troop concentration at (Q7851) was bombed and strafed. One locomotive, 129 railroad cars, 80 motor transport, 15 armored vehicles and 116 buildings were claimed as destroyed. Railroads and roads were cut in numerous places and much materiel was damaged. Twenty-four fighter-bombers flew close support missions for the 100th Infantry Division and bombed targets near (Q7851). Eighth Air Force heavy bombers dropped 1000 tons of bombs on MANNHEIM (R5100) and 205 tons were dropped on LUDWIGSHAFEN (R4998).

k. A total of 10 prisoners was captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 4, the 63d Infantry Division 1, and the 100th Infantry Division 5.

3. 3 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its mission of aggressive defense. The enemy maintained his passive attitude. Hostile artillery fire was light.

Seventh Army Attachment Order, dated 1 February, ordered the attachment of the 70th Infantry Division to XV Corps for operations. (2)

a. The 100th Infantry Division (274th Infantry attached) proceeded with its defensive mission. Normal patrolling and aggressive raids constituted the bulk of the day's activities. Enemy artillery fire was very light.

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(1) No changes were made in the defensive positions of the 398th Infantry. Friendly patrols encountered enemy tactical wire, trip flares, and anti-personnel mines only. Hostile artillery fire was very light. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 399th Infantry maintained its front line positions. Hostile artillery fire was insignificant. A 28 man combat patrol of the 1st Battalion left the line at 2200, 2 February and moved forward to the military road in the vicinity of (Q7549). A platoon of the 3d Battalion conducted a raid on FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551) beginning at 2300. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of SIERSTHAL (Q7149), GLASSELBERG (Q7349), and LAIBACH (Q7248).

(3) The 397th Infantry maintained and improved its defensive positions. Normal patrol activity resulted in no contact with the enemy. Moderate artillery and mortar fire was received along the regimental front. At 1730 four enemy deserters were apprehended by the 3d Battalion. The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "F" held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) - (Q6955) with Company "F" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at (Q7151).

(4) The 274th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) remained in its reserve defensive positions and perfected counterattack plans for any probable hostile offensive action. The 1st Battalion was in mobile reserve at LIONBROOK (Q6844), the 2d Battalion was at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion was at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. Units of the 44th Infantry division maintained their defensive positions. Two enemy patrols, attempting to infiltrate positions on the right of the division sector, were driven off by artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. Very little hostile artillery and mortar fire was received.

(1) The 324th Infantry held and improved its defensive positions. Supporting engineer troops assisted in the laying of tactical wire and in the revetting and covering of positions. No artillery fire was received in the regimental sector. The battalions were abreast on the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453) with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left.

(2) The 114th Infantry held and improved its defensive positions. At 1915, the 3d Battalion 255th Infantry relieved the 3d Battalion 114th Infantry in position. Upon relief the latter Battalion moved to reserve positions in the vicinity of (Q5854). At 1950 a 10-man combat patrol of the 1st Battalion raided enemy positions in the vicinity of (Q6253), but returned at 2130 with negative results. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q6453) - (Q6252) - (Q6155) with the 1st Battalion on the right.

(3) Elements of the 255th Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) held and improved their positions. Late in the period relief of the 2d Battalion by the 1st Battalion 253d Infantry was begun. The three battalions held the line: (Q6155) - (Q6056) - (Q5659) - (Q5560) - (Q5459) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

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(4) Hostile artillery and mortar fire increased in the sector of the 253d Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division). Patrol activity was still restricted by inundated areas to the front. There was no contact with the enemy. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion commenced the relief of the 2d Battalion 255th Infantry in position. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5057) (Q5057) with the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (Q5255).

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(5) The 71st Infantry occupied defensive positions in the MAGINOT LINE. The 1st and 2d Battalions were in positions along the line: ROHRBACH (Q6550) - ACHEN (Q6049) - WITTRING (Q5650). The 3d Battalion was at KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

c. The 70th Infantry Division, having taken over all units of Task Force HETTL occupied and defended positions on a quiet front. Hostile artillery fire was moderate.

(1) No changes were made in the dispositions of units of the 275th Infantry. Five reconnaissance patrols dispatched returned with negative results. The 1st and 2d Battalions and Company "L" held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4960) - (Q4362) with Company "L" on the left and the 2d Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion, less Company "L" was at (Q4357).

(2) The 276th Infantry continued occupation and improvement of its defensive positions. Patrols captured three prisoners. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4262) - (Q3963) - (Q3665) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at (Q3557).

(3) Task Force STANDISH remained at MERLEBACH (Q3261) alert to counter-attack any enemy offensive move.

d. Division troops of the 63d Infantry Division (less the 254th Infantry) continued to close in assembly areas in the vicinity of SARRALBE (Q4844) throughout the period: the 861st Field Artillery Battalion closed at 1600, the 863d Field Artillery Battalion closed at 1730, and the 862d Field Artillery Battalion closed at 1830.

c. The 10th Armored Division remained in Corps reserve prepared for employment in the sectors of the 106th Cavalry Group or the 70th Infantry Division.

(1) CCA prepared for employment while conducting a limited training program in the vicinity of SUISSE-BASSE (Q1341).

(2) CCR remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of BECHY (Q0143).

(3) The 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained a counterreconnaissance screen along the MAGINOT LINE between WITTRING (Q5751) and the road junction near (Q1663).

(4) CCB maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE River. Units not engaged in this mission remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of FENETRANCE (Q4727).

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f. The 106th Cavalry Group held and improved its positions of the previous period. Friendly patrols made no close contact with the enemy. No hostile artillery fire was received.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its positions. A patrol dispatched to the vicinity of (Q3370) located an extensive enemy minefield. Enemy movements were heard near (Q3370), but no close contact with the enemy occurred. The squadron held the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to hold and improve its positions on the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174). A patrol dispatched to (Q3370) reported two enemy on Hill 263 (Q3371) in what was believed to be an American vehicle.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired five counterbattery missions during the period. Beginning at 2000 twelve prepared harassing missions were fired in the vicinity of SARRIEBRUCKEN (Q4671) and northwest of VOLMUNSTER (Q7258).

h. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery fired two missions in field artillery roles. From 1930 until the end of the period, searchlight platoons assisted elements of the 44th Infantry Division and the 100th Infantry Division by illuminating areas in the vicinity of (Q7153) and (Q6554).

i. XV Corps Engineers completed a 120 foot Class 40 Bailey Bridge at (Q5653). Roads and bridges in the Corps sector required constant attention because of high water damage.

j. No close air support by XII Tactical Air Force was practicable on the Corps front because of adverse weather conditions.

k. Ten prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 1, the 70th Infantry Division 4, and the 100th Infantry Division 5.

4. 4 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued to adjust and improve its defensive positions. There was no perceptible change in the passive attitude of the enemy. Hostile artillery fire was moderate with the greater portion of it falling in the right portion of the Corps sector.

Operations Instructions No. 109 XV Corps, dated 2000, 4 February 1945, announced the dissolution of Task Force HERREN and attached all units formerly under Task Force HERREN to the 70th Infantry Division.(3)

a. The 100th Infantry Division (274th Infantry attached) utilized the period to repair defensive positions damaged by melting snows. There was only minor shifting of elements within the battalions. Enemy activity consisted mainly of moderate artillery and mortar fire.

(1) No changes were made in the dispositions of units of the 398th Infantry. A reconnaissance was made for additional enemy strong points. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

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(2) The 399th Infantry remained in its defensive positions of the previous period. Moderate sniper, mortar, and artillery fire was received during the period. Enemy positions at FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551) were harassed with machine gun, mortar, and anti-tank fire. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in reserve in the area: SIERSTHAL (Q7149) - LAMBACH (Q7248) - GLASSEBERG (Q7349).

(3) Only moderate artillery fire was received on the defensive positions of the 397th Infantry. Normal patrol activity was conducted throughout the day. The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "F" held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) with Company "F" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q7151).

(4) The 274th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) remained in division reserve alert for possible relief of front line elements of the division. The 1st Battalion was at LONBRONN (Q6844), the 2d Battalion at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. Melting snows necessitated additional labor on the defensive positions of the 44th Infantry Division. Hostile artillery fire was reported in one regimental sector.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained its defensive positions of the previous period. One outpost at HEIDERSMUEHL (Q6754) surprised a two-man enemy patrol at 0530; one enemy was killed and the other wounded. The battalions held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453) with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left.

(2) Positions damaged by the thaw were repaired in the sector of the 114th Infantry. At 1300 a 10-man combat patrol investigated the culvert near (Q6253) and found seven enemy dead which was the result of the fight on the previous day. The patrol withdrew with the intention of ambushing the enemy when he returned to the position. At 1700 the patrol returned to the culvert, attacked and surprised the enemy; destroying one machine gun, killing at least five enemy, and taking one prisoner. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q7553) - (Q6251) - (Q6155) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q5854).

(3) The 255th Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) held its positions on a quiet front. Normal patrolling continued. Upon relief by the 1st Battalion 253d Infantry at 0615, the 2d Battalion moved to SARRIENSHEIM (Q5454). The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q6155) - (Q5758) with the 3d Battalion on the right.

(4) The 253d Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) maintained and improved its defensive positions. Patrol activity was still restricted by the flood waters of the BLIES River. Hostile artillery fire was moderate. The 1st Battalion completed the relief of the 2d Battalion 255th Infantry at 0615. A combat patrol which had been sent to the vicinity of (Q5359) at 2300 had made no report by the end of the period. The 1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions, in that order, held the line: (Q5758) - (Q5659) - (Q5560) - (Q5358) - (Q5258) - (Q4957) with the 1st Battalion on the right.

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(5) The 71st Infantry occupied defensive positions in the MAGINOT LINE. The 1st and 2d Battalions were in position along the line: ROHEBACH (Q6550) - ACHEN (Q6049) - WITTRING (Q5650). The 3d Battalion was at KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

c. The 63d Infantry Division (less the 253d, 254th, and 255th Infantry Regiments) assembled in the vicinity of SARRAUBE (Q4844). At 1700 the remaining elements of the following units closed in the assembly area: the Engineer Battalion, Medical Battalion, Signal Company, Quartermaster Company, Ordnance Company, Reconnaissance Troop, and MP Platoon.

d. The 70th Infantry Division (Task Force STANDISH attached) continued to improve its defensive positions along a quiet front. No artillery or mortar fire was received.

(1) No changes were made in the dispositions of the units of the 275th Infantry. Four reconnaissance patrols and two raiding parties captured three prisoners during the period. The 1st and 2d Battalions and Company "L" held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4960) - (Q4362) with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and Company "L" on the left. The remainder of the 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q4357).

(2) The 276th Infantry continued to occupy and improve its defensive positions. A raiding party dispatched to MARIENAU (Q3665) captured one prisoner. Elements of the 1st Battalion began the relief of elements of the 2d and 3d Battalions at the close of the period. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4262) - (Q3963) - (Q3665) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (Q3557).

(3) Task Force STANDISH remained at NEPLEBACH (Q3261) prepared to counter-attack any possible enemy offensive move.

(4) The 274th Infantry remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division.

e. The 10th Armored Division remained in Corps reserve prepared for employment in the sectors of the 106th Cavalry Group or the 70th Infantry Division.

(1) OCA planned counterattacks and conducted a limited training program in the vicinity of SUISSE-BASSE (Q1341).

(2) CCR remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of BECHY (Q0143).

(3) The 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained a counterreconnaissance Screen along the MAGINOT LINE between WITTRING (Q5650) and the road junction near (Q1663).

(4) CCB maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SAPRE River. Units not engaged in the mission remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of FENETRANGE (Q1427).

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f. The 106th Cavalry Group sector was quiet except for moderate mortar fire. Patrols conducted normal activity throughout the sector.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron held and improved its defensive positions. No changes were made in the dispositions of units along the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370).

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(2) In the sector of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron vigilant patrolling resulted in the acquisition of valuable information regarding enemy dispositions. The squadron maintained its defensive positions along the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 9 counterbattery missions including a 300 round concentration placed on an enemy battery south of ERCHING (Q6557). Fifteen observed and fifteen unobserved missions were fired during the day on enemy infantry, vehicles, and OPs along the Corps front.

h. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain the roads and bridges in the Corps sector. Numerous roads were again swept for mines.

i. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish close air support in the Corps sector because of adverse weather conditions.

j. Twelve prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: the 70th Infantry Division captured 4 and the 100th Infantry Division 8.

5. 5 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its defensive mission. The attitude of the enemy remained passive and his artillery fire was exceptionally light.

Operations Instructions No. 110 XV Corps, dated 1600, 5 February 1945, directed the Commanding General 63d Infantry Division to assume control at 1200, 6 February 1945, of that portion of the Corps sector occupied by the 253d and 255th Infantry. At that time, all units of the 63d Infantry Division attached to the 44th Infantry Division would revert to control of the Commanding General 63d Infantry Division. (4)

In compliance with Seventh Army Directive dated 4 February 1945, all divisions and the 106th Cavalry Group were to institute reconnaissance and to complete plans for the organization of ground and the location of artillery positions for reserve battle positions designated by the Commanding General Seventh Army in their respective sectors. (5)

a. The 100th Infantry Division maintained and improved its positions on a quiet front. No offensive moves were made by the enemy and his artillery fire was moderate except the right portion of the division sector which received several strong concentrations.

(1) Heavy artillery and mortar fire was received on the front line defensive positions of the 398th Infantry. Routine patrolling and improvement of positions continued. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 399th Infantry placed harassing machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire on enemy positions. Hostile artillery fire was sporadic. Normal patrolling continued. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451). The 1st Battalion held reserve positions at SIERSTHAL (Q7149), LALBACH (Q7248), and GLASSETBERG (Q7347).

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(3) Patrols of 397th Infantry captured the prisoner and located unoccupied enemy positions. Moderate enemy artillery fire was received on positions of the 1st Battalion. The 1st and 3d Battalion and Company "F" held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) with Company "F" on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was at (Q7151).

(4) The 274th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) continued in reserve positions the construction of defense works and the perfection of counterattack plans. The 1st Battalion was at MONTEBRONN (Q6844), the 2d Battalion at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. No changes were made in the dispositions of the units of the 44th Infantry Division. Additional work was performed on defensive positions. Contact with the enemy was very light. Hostile artillery fire was reported in one sector only.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained and improved its defensive positions. A reconnaissance patrol dispatched to the vicinity of (Q6453) captured one prisoner. Light sporadic artillery fire was received on front line elements. The three battalions were abreast on the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453) with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left.

(2) Normal patrolling by the 114th Infantry failed to provoke any enemy reaction. Front line elements improved their positions. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q7553) - (Q6251) - (Q6155) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q5854).

(3) The 255th Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division) conducted normal patrolling and improved its defenses. The 3d and 1st Battalions with the 1st Battalion on the right held the line: (Q6155) - (Q5758). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at SARPEINSMING (Q5454).

(4) The high level and the swift current of the BLIES River continued to restrict patrol activities of the 253d Infantry (attached to the 44th Infantry Division). All battalions were on the line: (Q5758) - (Q5659) - (Q5560) - (Q5358) - (Q5258) - (Q4957) with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(5) The 71st Infantry held its MAGNOT LINE reserve positions with the 1st and 2d Battalions along the line: ROHRBACH (Q6550) - ACHEN (Q6049) - WITTRING (Q5650). The 3d Battalion was at KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

c. The 63d Infantry Division (less the 274th Infantry) prepared to assume command of its assigned sector on Corps order.

d. The 70th Infantry Division (Task Force STANDISH attached) occupied and improved its defensive positions on a quiet front. There was little hostile activity. The following elements of the division closed in assembly areas in the vicinity of ST JEAN ROHRBACH (Q3747), the 770th Ordnance Company, the 70th Military Police Platoon, Headquarters Company 70th Infantry Division, Headquarters Special Troops, Headquarters Special Troops Medical Detachment closed at 1400; the Detachment 570th Signal Company closed at 1430; and the 725th Field Artillery Battalions closed at 1630.

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(1) Five reconnaissance patrols were dispatched by the 275th Infantry but all failed to obtain information of value. Unit positions were improved. The 1st and 2d Battalions and Company "L" held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4960) - (Q4362) with Company "L" on the left and the 2d Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q4357).

(2) The 276th Infantry maintained its routine front line activities. Upon relief by the 1st Battalion at 0630, the 2d Battalion moved to the vicinity of THEDING (Q3859). The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4262) - (Q3963) - (Q3665) with the 1st Battalion on the right.

(3) Task Force STANDISH remained at MERIEBACH (Q3261) prepared to counter-attack any enemy offensive move. The unit training program was continued.

(4) The 274th Infantry remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division.

c. The 10th Armored Division remained in Corps reserve prepared for employment in the sectors of the 106th Cavalry Group or the 70th Infantry Division.

(1) CCA prepared for counterattack and conducted a limited training program in the vicinity of SUISSE-BASSE (Q1341).

(2) CCR remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of BECHY (Q0143).

(3) The 90th Cavalry Recon Squadron maintained a counterreconnaissance screen along the MAGINOT LINE between WITTRING and the road junction near (Q1663).

(4) CCB maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE River. Units not engaged in this mission remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of FENETRANCE (Q4727).

f. Active patrolling continued in the sector of the 106th Cavalry Group. Contact was maintained with the 70th Infantry Division on the right and the 26th Infantry Division on the left.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained and improved its positions along the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370) and continued to patrol its sector.

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled its front from (Q3370) to (Q3174).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired five counterbattery missions during the period. Five prepared harassing missions were fired during the night on supply dumps and a vehicle park in the vicinity of HORNBAACH (Q7365) and east of SARREBRUCKEN (Q4672).

h. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery expended 508 rounds of 90mm ammunition on field artillery missions. Searchlights were utilized to illuminate the area: (Q7152) - (Q7155) for the 397th Infantry.

i. XV Corps Engineers maintained the roads and bridges in the Corps sector and assisted divisions in the construction of field fortifications.

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j. Adverse weather conditions prevented XII Tactical Air Force from furnishing air support for XV Corps.

k. Six prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 3, the 63d Infantry Division 2, and the 100th Infantry Division 1.

6. 6 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its aggressive defense. Several strong raids in front of the left of the Corps sector were successfully completed. Enemy artillery fire increased considerably over that of the preceding period. Most of the fire was concentrated in the left portion of the sector where the enemy had apparently been alarmed by our raids.

a. The 100th Infantry Division (274th Infantry attached) strengthened its defensive positions. The enemy maintained his passive attitude except for his moderate artillery and mortar fire.

(1) In the 398th Infantry sector LEIBERG (Q7445), GOETZEBRUCK (Q7443) and SARRIENSBERG (Q7441) were organized into defensive areas with mutually-supporting strong points. Front line positions were improved despite strong hostile artillery and mortar fire. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 399th Infantry continued to harass the enemy with machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire. The enemy replied with sporadic mortar, machine gun, and sniper fire. The 2d Battalion moved to LAIBACH (Q7248) after being relieved in position at 2030 by the 3d Battalion. The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451) with the 3d Battalion on the right.

(3) Only light artillery fire fell on the defensive positions of the 397th Infantry. Normal patrol activity was conducted. The 1st and 3d Battalions plus Company "F" held the line: (Q7453) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) with Company "F" on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was near (Q7151).

(4) The 274th Infantry remained in division reserve. The construction of defense lines in depth continued. The 1st Battalion was at MONTBRONN (Q6844), the 2d Battalion at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion at ST LOUIS les BITCH (Q7243).

b. Units of the 44th Infantry Division improved their defensive positions on a quiet front. Only moderate hostile artillery fire was received. At 1200 the Commanding General 63d Infantry Division assumed command of those sectors occupied by the 255th and 253d Infantry Regiments.

(1) No changes were made in the dispositions of units of the 324th Infantry. Sporadic enemy mortar and artillery fire was received. The 2d, 3d, and 1st Battalions in that order from right to left held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453).

(2) The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Friendly

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patrols covered the front methodically. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q6553) - (Q6251) - (Q6155) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q5854).

(3) The 71st Infantry remained in its reserve ~~POSITION~~ LINE positions with the 1st and 2d Battalions along the line: ROHRBACH (Q6550) - ACHEN (Q6049) - MITTRING (Q5650). The 3d Battalion was at KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

c. The Commanding General 63d Infantry Division took command of the sectors of the 253d and 255th Infantry Regiments at 1200 as directed by XV Corps Operations Instructions No. 110. A friendly local attack made in the right of the division sector was followed by a strong enemy counterattack. The remainder of the sector was quiet except for sporadic mortar fire.

(1) The 255th Infantry conducted limited objective attacks to secure more favorable defensive positions. At 1810 approximately 100 enemy attacked; however, within an hour they were repulsed by artillery and mortar fire. At the close of the period the 3d and 1st Battalions, with the 3d Battalion on the right, held the line: (Q6055) - (Q5956) - (Q5758). The 2d Battalion remained in reserve at SARREINSLING (Q5454).

(2) The 253d Infantry sector was generally quiet. Sporadic automatic weapons, mortar, and small arms fire was received throughout the period. Normal patrols were dispatched to the front. The three battalions were abreast on the line: (Q5758) - (Q5659) - (Q5560) - (Q5358) - (Q5258) - (Q4957) with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

d. The 70th Infantry Division (Task Force STANDISH attached) conducted seven raids during the period. Enemy artillery fire increased considerably over that of the previous period. The following elements of the division closed in the vicinity of ST JEAN ROHRBACH (Q3747), the remainder of the 57th Signal Company closed at 1100; the 270th Engineer Battalion closed at 1200; the 370th Medical Battalion closed at 1445, and 70th Reconnaissance Troop closed at 1600.

(1) Elements of the 275th Infantry made four daylight raids on LIXING (Q4662), BROSLIEDERSTROFF (Q4862), the BRANDENBERG WOODS (Q4662), and on the high ground at (Q4761). All elements withdrew under cover of darkness to their former positions. The 1st and 2d Battalions and Company "I" held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4960) - (Q4362) with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center and Company "I" on the left. The remainder of the 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q4357).

(2) The 276th Infantry dispatched raiding parties to BEHREN (Q4263) and to the high ground east of OETING (Q4063). Elements attempted to raid OETING but were turned back by heavy enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. Forty-six prisoners were captured during the days operations. The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4262) - (Q3963) - (Q3665) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at THIEDING (Q3859).

(3) Task Force STANDISH remained at MERIEBACH (Q3261) prepared to counter-attack any enemy offensive move. The unit training program was continued.

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(4) The 274th Infantry remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division.

e. The 10th Armored Division remained in Corps reserve prepared for employment in the sector of the 106th Cavalry Group or in the sector of the 70th Infantry Division.

(1) CCA prepared for counterattack and conducted a limited training program in the vicinity of SUISSE-BASSE (Q1341).

(2) CCR remained in assembly area in the vicinity of BECHY (Q0143).

(3) The 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained a counterreconnaissance screen along the MAGINOT LINE between WITTING (Q5650) and the road junction near (Q1663).

(4) CCB maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE River. Units not engaged in this mission remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of PENETRANCE (Q4727).

f. There was a perceptible increase in enemy activity in the sector of the 106th Cavalry Group. Moderate light artillery and mortar fire was received in the sector. The advance party of the 101st Cavalry Group closed in the sector at 1730.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its defensive positions on the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370) and patrolled its sector. Moderate light artillery and mortar fire was received in the sector.

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved its front line positions and continued improvement of its secondary positions. Only moderate mortar fire was received along the front lines from (Q3370) to (Q3174).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 22 counterbattery missions consisting of 368 rounds of mixed type and caliber. Prepared harassing missions were fired during the night in the vicinity of VOLLMUNSTER (Q7258) and ZWEIFRUCKEN (Q7372). Nineteen observed and 44 unobserved harassing missions were fired during the day on enemy infantry, mortars, and OPs.

h. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery fired 435 rounds on 10 missions in field artillery roles. Searchlights were used from 2020 to 2130 to illuminate DOLEIBER (Q7255) for the 397th Infantry, 100th Infantry Division.

i. XV Corps Engineers maintained the roads and bridges in the Corps sector. Assistance was given to front line divisions in the construction of defensive positions.

j. No close support missions were flown by XII Tactical Air Force in support of XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions.

k. Sixty-two prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: Corps troops captured 1, the 44th Infantry Division 3, the 70th Infantry Division 55, and the 100th Infantry Division 3.

7. 7 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its aggressive defense. Several raids were undertaken in

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addition to routine patrolling. The enemy strongly resisted every attempt to penetrate his positions. Hostile artillery fire was moderate, and the greater part of it fell on the right portion of the Corps sector.

Operations Instructions No. 112 XV Corps, dated 1200, 7 February 1945, was published announcing the attachment of the 101st Cavalry Group to XV Corps upon its arrival in the Corps sector. (6)

The 101st Cavalry Group was directed to begin the relief of the 106th Cavalry Group in position as soon as possible; the relief to be completed prior to 0600, 12 February. Upon relief, the 106th Cavalry Group was directed to move to Corps reserve in the vicinity of BASSING (Q3130).

The 254th Infantry (63d Infantry Division) upon arrival in the Corps sector was to be attached to the 100th Infantry Division for employment as division reserve only; the regiment was to relieve the 274th Infantry (70th Infantry Division) in position as soon as practicable. Upon relief, the 274th Infantry was to revert to the control of the Commanding General 70th Infantry Division.

a. The sector of the 100th Infantry Division (274th Infantry attached) was extremely quiet. Routine patrolling and improvement of positions continued without enemy reaction. Hostile artillery fire was moderate; MONTBROMM (Q6843) and HOTTVILLER (Q7253) received light concentrations.

(1) Engineer obstacles were constructed and strong points were organized in the sector of the 398th Infantry. The three battalions held the line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) Moderate mortar fire was received in the sector of the 399th Infantry. Routine patrolling produced negative results. The line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at LAIBACH (Q7248).

(3) Positions of the 397th Infantry were improved. Moderate artillery fire was received on front line positions. The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "F" held the line: (Q7453) - (Q7353) - (Q7255) with Company "F" on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q7151).

(4) The 274th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) continued to improve its reserve defensive positions. The 1st Battalion remained at MONTBROMM (Q6844), the 2d Battalion at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. The 44th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions. Strong raids were undertaken with varying success. Hostile artillery activity was at a minimum; a few rounds of light caliber fire were received in GROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

(1) No changes were made in the dispositions of the units of the 324th Infantry. At 0200 a raiding party of the 1st Battalion found enemy strong points in the vicinity of (Q6454) unoccupied. A raiding party from the 2d Battalion en-

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countered heavy resistance from enemy machine guns along the RIMLING (Q6555) - UBCHEN-BUSCH (Q6756) road. The 1st Battalion was on the left, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the right of the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453).

(2) The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. A raiding party of platoon strength attacked BRANDELFINGERHOF FARM (Q6154). Upon relief by the 3d Battalion in position at 2010, the 1st Battalion moved to reserve positions in the vicinity of WOEWELING (Q5954). The 3d and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q6553) - (Q6251) - (Q6155) with the 3d Battalion on the right.

(3) The 71st Infantry remained in its reserve MAGINOT LINE positions. The 1st and 2d Battalions were in position along the line ROEBACH (Q6550) - ACHEN (Q6049) - WITTRING (Q5650). The 3d Battalion was at KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

c. The 63d Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions. Normal patrol activity continued. Hostile artillery fire was very light.

(1) The 255th Infantry continued to defend and improve its defensive positions. The 3d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q6055) - (Q5956) - (Q5851) - (Q5658) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at SARREINSMING (Q5454).

(2) The 253d Infantry maintained its front line positions. Intermittent small arms and automatic weapons fire was received throughout the period. A combat patrol dispatched to buildings near (Q5157) captured 13 prisoners. The three battalions were abreast on the line: (Q5658) - (Q5559) - (Q6560) - (Q5358) - (Q5158) - (Q5057) - (Q4957) with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

d. The 70th Infantry Division (Task Force STANDISH attached) continued work on its defensive positions. Elements of units in the division left sector withdrew under strong enemy pressure to their former OPIR. The division left sector received the bulk of hostile artillery fire. The remainder of the division closed into the division sector: the 884th Field Artillery Battalion closed at 1300; the 883d Field Artillery Battalion and the 70th Quartermaster Company closed at 1600; and the 882d Field Artillery Battalion closed at 1630.

(1) The 275th Infantry improved its positions without change in the disposition of its units. The 2d and 1st Battalions and Company "L" held the line: (Q4957) - (Q4959) - (Q4261) from right to left in that order. The remainder of the 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of DIEBLING (Q4257).

(2) The 2d and 3d Battalions of the 276th Infantry encountered heavy artillery, mortar, and rocket fire and were forced to withdraw from the OPIR positions KELSBERG (Q3964) - LE FAHRBERG (Q4063) to their old positions on the line: (Q4261) - (Q3665) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion took up reserve positions at FOLKLING (Q3861).

(3) Task Force STANDISH remained at MERLEBACH (Q3261) prepared to counter any enemy offensive move. The unit training program was continued.

(4) The 274th Infantry remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division.

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c. The 10th Armored Division remained in Corps reserve prepared for employment in the sectors of the 106th Cavalry Group and the 70th Infantry Division.

(1) CCA prepared plans for counterattack and conducted a limited training program in the vicinity of SUISSE-BASSE (Q1341).

(2) CCR remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of BECHY (Q0143).

(3) The 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained a counterreconnaissance screen along the MAGINOT LINE between WITTING and the road junction (Q1663) west of the SARRE River.

(4) CCB maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE River. Units not engaged in this mission remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of FENETRANGE (Q4727).

f. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained its defensive positions. Additional work was done on positions in the left portion of the sector. Routine patrolling continued along the entire front.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron hold its defensive positions. Normal patrols dispatched reported hostile small arms fire received from houses in the vicinity of (Q3371) and from two 20mm antiaircraft guns in the vicinity of (Q3371). Moderate artillery fire was received on the squadron front along the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370).

(2) Patrols of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron returned with negative reports. Additional work was performed on secondary defensive positions. Artillery and mortar fire increased slightly over that of the preceding period along the front lines: (Q3370) - (Q3174).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 9 counterbattery missions including one mission in the vicinity of ERCHING (Q6755) which received approximately 422 rounds. Ten prepared harassing missions were fired during the night in the area between SARREBRUCKEN (Q4672) and ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7372). During the day 15 unobserved and 13 observed missions were fired along the Corps front on enemy infantry, OPs, and vehicles.

h. XV Corps Engineers maintained the roads and bridges in the Corps sector and assisted the divisions in the preparation of defensive positions.

i. Adverse weather conditions made it impracticable for the XII Tactical Air Force to furnish XV Corps close air support.

j. Thirty-one prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: the 44th Inf Division captured 4, the 63d Infantry Division 13, the 70th Infantry Division 12, and the 100th Infantry Division 2.

8. 8 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its defensive mission. Activity was slight. One friendly raid was conducted and normal patrols were dispatched. The enemy maintained his

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defensive attitude. Hostile artillery fire was less than that of the previous period. The major portion of it fell on the right portion of the Corps sector.

Operations Instructions No. 114 XV Corps, dated 2100, 8 February 1945, relieved the Commanding General 100th Infantry Division of the responsibility for the organization of the defensive area bounded generally by RAHLING (Q6143), (Q6443), (Q6241), and (Q6544), and directed the Commanding Officer 1109th Engineer Combat Group to organize and defend that area.

The Commanding General 44th Infantry Division was relieved of the responsibility for the organization of the defensive area bounded by OERMINGEN (Q5644), (Q5845), (Q6044), and (Q5843), and the Commanding Officer 1117th Engineer Combat Group was directed to organize and defend that area. (7)

Operations Instructions No. 115 XV Corps, dated 2200, 8 February 1945, was published, containing the plan for a limited objective attack to rectify and straighten the Corps front lines. (8)

a. The 100th Infantry Division (274th Infantry attached) maintained its defensive positions. An attempt by one enemy patrol, to infiltrate into the center of the sector was repulsed. Hostile artillery fire was generally light; however, several heavy concentrations fell on forward positions. Approximately 200 rounds of mortar fire were received on the center portion of the division sector.

(1) The 398th Infantry continued to organize the LIEBERG (Q7445), GOETZEN BRUCK (Q7442), and SARREINSBERG (Q7441) strong points. Normal patrolling was continued. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539), was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) Enemy patrols attempted to infiltrate into the positions of the 399th Infantry, but all were dispersed with small arms fire. No changes were made in the dispositions of its units. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at LAIBACH (Q7248).

(3) The 397th Infantry defended and improved its front line positions. An estimated 200 rounds of mortar fire was received in the positions of the 2d and 3d Battalions. The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "F" held the line: (Q7453) - (Q7373) - (Q7255) with the 1st Battalion on the left and Company "F" on the right. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was near (Q7151).

(4) The 274th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division), in reserve, made preparations for movement to the sector of the 70th Infantry Division. The 1st Battalion was at MONTBRONN (Q6844), the 2d Battalion at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. The sector of the 44th Infantry Division continued generally inactive. Sporadic artillery and mortar fire was received on the right portion of the sector. Concentrations were received in the vicinity of (Q6654), and (Q6548), and a few scattered rounds landed in GUIRING (Q6552).

(1) The 324th Infantry continued to occupy and improve its defensive positions. A raiding party of the 3d Battalion which had moved out at 1800 to destroy enemy personnel and materiel in the vicinity of (Q6655) had not returned

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at the close of the period. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was sporadic. The three battalions were abreast on the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453) with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left.

(2) No changes were made in the dispositions of the units of the 114th Infantry. Normal patrolling continued. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q6553) - (Q6251) - (Q6155) with the 2d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at WOELFLING (Q5954).

(3) The 71st Infantry remained in its MACINOT LINE reserve positions. The 1st and 2d Battalions occupied positions along the line: ROHNBACH (Q6550) - ACHEN (Q6049) - WITTRING (Q5650). The 3d Battalion was at KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

c. The 63d Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions. Hostile artillery fire was very light.

(1) During the hours of darkness friendly patrols were active in the sector of the 255th Infantry. Additional work was accomplished to improve positions. The 3d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q6055) - (Q5956) - (Q5851) - (Q5658) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at LARREINSMING (Q5454).

(2) The 253d Infantry maintained its front line positions. Normal patrols were dispatched. The battalions held the line: (Q5658) - (Q5559) - (Q5560) - (Q5358) - (Q5158) - (Q5057) - (Q4957) with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center and the 3d Battalion on the left.

d. Elements of the 70th Infantry Division (Task Force STANDISH attached) completed their withdrawal to positions on their former OPIR. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was moderate.

(1) There was no change in the dispositions of units of the 275th Infantry. Positions on the line were maintained and improved. The three battalions were abreast on the line: (Q4957) - (Q4959) - (Q4261) with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 2d Battalion and Company "K" of the 3d Battalion 276th Infantry completed their withdrawal from positions made untenable by heavy enemy mortar and small arms fire to the OPIR previously held. Front line positions were improved. At the end of the period, the 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4261) - (Q3665) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at FOLKLING (Q3861).

(3) Task Force STANDISH remained at MERLEBACH (Q3261) prepared to counter any enemy offensive move in the division sector. A limited training program was continued.

e. The 10th Armored Division remained in reserve west of the SARRE River. At 1940 the division was alerted for movement to the north.

(1) CCA prepared for counterattacks in the sectors of the 106th Cavalry Group and the 70th Infantry Division. A limited training program was carried out in the vicinity of SUISSE-BASSE (Q1311).

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(2) CCR remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of BECHY (Q0143).

(3) The 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained a counterreconnaissance screen along the MAGINOT LINE between WITTING and the road junction near (Q1663) and west of the SARRE River.

(4) CCB maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE River. Units not engaged in this mission remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of FENETRANGE (Q4727).

f. The 106th Cavalry Group maintained its defensive positions. Normal patrol activity continued. Hostile mortar and artillery fire along the front was moderate. Preparations were begun for relief by the 101st Cavalry Group.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied and improved its positions along the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370). Contact with the enemy was light.

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its positions along the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174). Routine patrols were dispatched.

g. The 101st Cavalry Group assembled in the vicinity of ST AVOLD (Q2456). Reconnaissance was made preparatory to relief of the 106th Cavalry Group.

h. XV Corps Artillery fired 10 counterbattery missions including one west of VOLLMUNSTER (Q7258) which received approximately 300 rounds. A light harassing program was fired during the night in the vicinity of SANNEBRUCKEN (Q4772) and MOUTERHOUSE (Q7942).

i. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery fired a total of 15 missions in field artillery roles. Searchlights were used for two hours during the night to illuminate targets in the sector of the 398th Infantry.

j. XV Corps Engineers maintained the roads and bridges in the Corps sector and assisted the divisions in the preparation of defensive positions.

k. Adverse weather conditions prevented XII Tactical Air Force from furnishing XV Corps close air support. Twenty-four aircraft bombed and strafed the marshalling yards and railroad stock in the area: KAISERSLAUTERN (R0274) - ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7272) - HOMBERG (Q7181) with good results.

1. Eighteen prisoners were captured during the period in the XV Corps sector: the 44th Infantry Division captured 5, the 63d Infantry Division 1, the 70th Infantry Division 9, and the 100th Infantry Division 3.

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XV Corps continued to maintain and defend its front line positions. The enemy attitude remained passive; there was only a slight increase in patrol activity. Hostile artillery was generally inactive and only a few rounds fell on forward elements. Operations Instructions No. 76 Seventh Army, dated 9 February 1945, attached the 12th Armored Division to XV Corps upon its arrival in XV Corps sector.

Operations Instructions No. 116 XV Corps, dated 1630; 9 February 1945 was published announcing that:

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), ~~SECRET~~ After Action Rpt for Feb 45, dtd 31 May 45.

Upon arrival in XV Corps sector the 12th Armored Division to relieve elements of the 10th Armored Division in position on the following missions:

One combat command (Corps reserve under Corps control) to relieve the 10th Armored Division of and maintain the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGNOT LINE in order to intercept and destroy enemy infiltrations south of the MAGNOT LINE.

The Division (less one Combat Command) to relieve the 10th Armored Division of and maintain the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River, and south of the MAGNOT LINE in order to intercept and destroy enemy infiltrations south of the MAGNOT LINE.

The 10th Armored Division (-) upon completion of the above reliefs, to concentrate in the vicinity of BAUDRECOURT (Q0641) prepared for prompt movement to the vicinity of METZ (U8758); Task Force STANDISH to revert to unit control in position effective 1200 9 February.

The 106th Cavalry Group to concentrate in the vicinity of ST AVOLD (Q2456) upon being relieved by the 101st Cavalry Group. (9)

a. The 100th Infantry Division (254th Infantry attached) occupied and improved its defensive positions. Hostile artillery fire was very light. The 274th Infantry was relieved in position by the 254th Infantry.

(1) Only minor shifts were made in the location of elements of the 398th Infantry. Searchlights were utilized with good results. Work on the LEMBERG (Q744 GOETZENBRUCK (Q7442), and SARREINSBERG (Q7441) strong points continued. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) Elements of the 399th Infantry were rotated. Routine patrols reconnoitered the regimental front. The 3d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at LAMBACH (Q7248).

(3). Light mortar fire was received on the front line positions of the 397th Infantry. Companies were shifted to provide relief of forward elements. Patrols encountered one enemy machine gun emplacement near (Q6856). The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "G" held the line: (Q7453) - (Q7573) - (Q7255) with Company "G" on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q7151).

(4) The 254th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) completed the relief of the 274th Infantry in position at 1900. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion was at MONTBRONN (Q6844), the 2d Battalion at ENCHENBERG (Q7146) and the 3d Battalion at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243). The 274th Infantry reverted to unit control (70th Infantry Division).

b. The 44th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions. Enemy artillery fire was light in volume and harassing in character.

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(1) No changes were made in the dispositions of units of the 324th Infantry. A 3d Battalion raiding party which departed at 1800 the previous day returned at 0100 with negative results. At 2000 a 1st Battalion raiding party was dispatched to destroy enemy emplacements and materiel at (Q6550), but at the close of the period it had not returned. The 2d, 3d, and 1st Battalions, in that order from right to left, were abreast on the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453).

(2) The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Preparations were made for a raid on enemy positions in the vicinity of (Q6253). The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q6553) - (Q6251) - (Q6155) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at WOELFLING (Q5954).

(3) The 71st Infantry organized and improved its MAGINOT LINE reserve positions. The 1st and 2d Battalions were in position along the line: ROHRBACH (Q6550) - ACHEN (Q6049) - WITTRING (Q5650). The 3d Battalion remained at KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

c. The 63d Infantry Division continued to defend and improve its positions. Patrolling was continued during the hours of darkness. Light mortar fire fell in only one portion of the sector.

(1) The 255th Infantry defended and improved its positions. At 1400 a combat patrol reported an enemy tank knocked out by artillery fire near (Q6055). At the close of the period the 2d Battalion was in the process of relieving the 1st Battalion 253d Infantry in position. The 3d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q6055) - (Q5956) - (Q5851) - (Q5658) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at SARREINSMING (Q5454).

(2) The 253d Infantry improved its defensive positions. Sporadic mortar fire was received on front line positions. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion was being relieved in position by the 2d Battalion 255th Infantry. The 1st Battalion then began relief of the 3d Battalion 253d Infantry in position. The three battalions held the line: (Q5658) - (Q5559) - (Q6560) - (Q5358) - (Q5057) - (Q4957) with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(3) The 254th Infantry was attached to the 100th Infantry Division.

d. The 70th Infantry Division (Task Force STANDISH attached) remained in its defensive positions. The 274th Infantry reverted to division control and began effecting the relief of elements of the 275th and 276th Infantry Regiments. Task Force STANDISH was relieved from attachment to the division.

(1) The 275th Infantry maintained its defensive positions on a quiet front. Normal patrolling continued. At the close of the period elements of the regiment were being relieved by elements of the 274th Infantry. The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4957) - (Q4959) - (Q4261) with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) Active patrolling continued in the 276th Infantry sector. At the close of the period elements of the regiment were being relieved in position by elements of the 274th Infantry. The line: (Q4261) - (Q3665) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and elements of the 2d Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was at FOLKLING (Q3861).

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(3) The 274th Infantry reverted to division control at 1900 and began the relief of elements of the 275th and 276th Infantry Regiments at the close of the period. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at SEINGBOUSE (Q3357).

e. The 10th Armored Division (less CCB) continued its training program in the FAULQUEMONT area. Preparations were made for the movement of the division to METZ (U8758).

(1) CCB maintained the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE. At 1630 the combat command (less elements engaged in the counterreconnaissance screen) began its movement from the WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131) area to rejoin its parent unit in the FAULQUEMONT (Q1749) area.

f. CCR 12th Armored Division moved from the COLMAR area to the XV Corps area and at the close of the period was entering the area vacated by CCB, 10th Armored Division in the vicinity of WOLFSKIRCHEN.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to defend along a quiet front. Routine patrolling continued. Light artillery and mortar fire was received with the major part falling on the left portion of the sector. DIFFERTEN (Q3072) was harassed with 19 rounds of light caliber artillery fire. Elements of the 101st Cavalry Group commenced relief of the 106th Cavalry Group at 1100.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in its defensive positions. Normal patrol activity continued. The 101st Cavalry Group began the relief of elements in position along the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron received moderate sniper, small arms, mortar, and artillery fire. Positions in the rear were organized and improved. The relief of elements along the line: (Q3370) - (Q3147) was begun by units of the 101st Cavalry Group.

h. The 101st Cavalry Group assembled in the vicinity of ST AVOLD (Q2456) and began the relief of elements of the 106th Cavalry Group.

i. XV Corps Artillery fired six counterbattery missions including one concentration of 260 rounds on an enemy battery north of SARTREUIL (Q5157). Forty-five observed and 11 unobserved missions were fired on OPs and troop concentrations along the entire Corps front.

j. XV Corps Engineers maintained roads and bridges in the Corps sector and assisted the divisions in the construction of defensive positions. Numerous roads were reswept for mines.

k. XII Tactical Air Force flew no missions in support of XV Corps because of priority missions in the RHINE VALLEY. Air support for XV Corps was furnished by the XIX Tactical Air Force which conducted armed reconnaissance over the Corps front and flew twenty-four sorties against the ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7272), KAISERSLAUTERN (R0274), HOMBERG (Q7181), and NEUNKIRCHEN (Q5983) marshalling yards.

1. Ten prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period; the 44th Infantry Division captured 1, the 63d Infantry Division 2, the 70th Infantry Division 2, and the 100th Infantry Division 3.

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10. 10 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps maintained its defensive positions making only minor changes in dispositions of front line units. There was no perceptible change in the passive attitude of the enemy. Hostile artillery fire followed the general pattern of the previous periods and continued moderate along the entire Corps front.

Operations Instructions No. 117 XV Corps, dated 1300, 10 February 1945, was published and announced in substance that:

The 10th Armored Division (reinforced) move to the vicinity of METZ (U8653) commencing 0900, 10 February (per verbal orders of the Commanding General Seventh Army). Upon arrival in the XX Corps sector, the 10th Armored Division was to be relieved from attachment to XV Corps and attached to XX Corps.

The 106th Cavalry Group assemble in the vicinity of MERLEBACH (Q3261).

The 12th Armored Division (less CCR) concentrate in the area west of ST AVOLD (Q2556). (10)

a. The 100th Infantry Division (254th Infantry attached) maintained its defensive positions. Routine patrolling continued. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was moderate except in the 398th Infantry sector where the enemy delivered strong concentrations following a demonstration by this regiment.

(1) Front line positions were improved, reserve and switch positions were prepared in the 398th Infantry sector, and at 0530 a demonstration fired on known enemy positions brought an immediate and vigorous response from the enemy, thus revealing the locations of various enemy installations. The line: (Q770375) - (Q766384) - (Q755398) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 399th Infantry continued to improve its positions. Reconnaissance patrols investigated suspected enemy positions with negative results. Sniper fire was exchanged throughout the period. The 3d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q747484) - (Q744477) - (Q743519) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at LAMBACH (Q7248).

(3) Patrols of the 397th Infantry drew automatic weapons fire from the enemy on the high ground south of WEISKIRCH (Q7156). Defensive positions were further improved. The line: (Q7453) - (Q7373) - (Q7255) was held with Company "G" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q7151).

(4) The 254th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) improved its reserve defensive positions. Plans were prepared for counterattack against possible enemy penetrations. The 1st Battalion was at MONTBRONN (Q6844), the 2d Battalion was at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion was at ST LOUIS DES BITCHE (Q7243).

b. Elements of the 44th Infantry Division patrolled the division front. Hostile artillery fire was moderate.

Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Sub: After Action Rpt for Feb 45, dtd 31 May 45.

(1) No changes were made in the disposition of units of the 324th Infantry. A raiding party reached the south edge of REILING (Q6553) and there knocked out an enemy machine gun; however, fire from a second machine gun forced the party to withdraw. At 2200 a combat patrol from the 1st Battalion moved to LE SCHLOSSBERG Ridge in the vicinity of (Q6454), but it had not returned at the close of the period. The 2d, 3d, and 1st Battalions, in that order from right to left, held the line (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453).

(2) The 3d Battalion 114th Infantry moved its front line forward several hundred yards, without opposition from the enemy, to previously prepared positions. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6453) - (Q6253) - (Q6153) - (Q6055). The 1st Battalion was in reserve at WOELF-LING (Q5954).

(3) The 71st Infantry continued to organize and improve its MAGNOT LINE reserve positions. The 1st and 2d Battalions were in position along the line: ROHRBACH (Q6550) - ACHEN (Q6049) - WITTRING (Q5650). The 3d Battalion was at KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

c. Elements of the 63d Infantry Division were rotated as work on defensive positions continued. No hostile artillery fire was received.

(1) The 255th Infantry continued to defend and improve its front line positions. A reconnaissance patrol captured two prisoners near (Q5658). The 2d Battalion relieved the 2d Battalion 253d Infantry in position on the left of the regimental sector. At the close of the period the three battalions were abreast on the line: (Q6055) - (Q5955) - (Q5957) - (Q5658) - (Q5560) - (Q5459) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 253d Infantry maintained its defensive positions. After being relieved in position by the 2d Battalion 255th Infantry, the 1st Battalion 253d Infantry relieved the 3d Battalion in position. The 2d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q5459) - (Q5258) - (Q5157) - (Q5057) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion moved to STEINBACH (Q5256).

(3) The 254th Infantry remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division.

d. The 70th Infantry Division occupied and improved its defensive positions on a quiet front. The 274th Infantry effected the relief of elements of the 275th and 276th Infantry in position.

(1) The 275th Infantry maintained its positions while the 1st and 3d Battalions were relieved by the 2d and 3d Battalions 274th Infantry. Normal patrolling was continued. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4959) - (Q4560). The 1st Battalion was in reserve at HUNDLING (Q4556).

(2) At 0327 the 2d and 3d Battalions 274th Infantry completed the relief of elements of the 1st and 2d Battalions 275th Infantry and the 2d Battalion 276th Infantry. Defensive positions were improved. At the close of the period the 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4560) - (Q4162) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near SEINGBOUSE (Q3457).

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(3) The 276th Infantry improved its defensive positions. Patrols captured five prisoners. Elements of the 2d and 3d Battalions of the 274th Infantry relieved the 2d Battalion in position. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q4162) - (Q3665). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at FOLKLING (Q3861).

e. Movement of the 10th Armored Division to the vicinity of METZ (U8653) was begun. CCB (less elements on the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE) closed in the FAULQUEMONT (Q1749) area at 0040. At 1500 elements of CCR 12th Armored Division relieved elements of CCB 10th Armored Division on the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE. The 10th Armored Division (less the division artillery and the 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron) moved at 0900 to an assembly area in the vicinity of METZ closing at 1401. The division passed to control of XX Corps upon arrival in that Corps sector.

f. CCR 12th Armored Division closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131) at 0850. By 1500 elements of the 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron established a counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE. CCR passed to the control of XV Corps upon arrival in the XV Corps sector.

g. The relief of the 106th Cavalry Group by the 101st Cavalry Group continued. The front was quiet; only sporadic mortar fire was received.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its positions while its relief by the 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was in progress. Moderate mortar fire was received during the period. The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was disposed along the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to improve its positions while its relief by the 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was in progress. The squadron held the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired six counterbattery missions including two concentrations of 312 and 328 rounds in the vicinity of BITCHE (Q7750). Twelve unobserved missions were fired on enemy personnel along the Corps front. Three prepared harassing missions were fired during the night in the vicinity of ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7372) and BEBELSHEIM (Q6854).

j. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery fired 16 missions in field artillery roles. Searchlights were used for two hours to illuminate the vicinity of GOETZENBRUCK (Q7442) for the 100th Infantry Division.

k. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road and bridge maintenance and assisted the divisions in the preparation of defensive positions. A two-way Class 40 steel stringer bridge was completed near (Q1850).

l. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with 72 sorties during the day. Twelve sorties were flown during the day in close support of the 100th Infantry Division bombing and strafing troop concentrations and installations in EGUELSHARDT (Q8246). Forty-eight aircraft bombed and strafed the marshalling yards in the vicinity of ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7272), PIRMASENS (Q9066), KAISERLAUTERN (R0294) and HOMBERG (Q7180) with good results.

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m. Twelve prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: Corps troops captured 3, the 63d Infantry Division 2, the 70th Infantry Division 6, and the 100th Infantry Division 1.

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11. 11 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps maintained its defensive positions without opposition throughout the period. Enemy activity was limited to scattered machine gun and mortar fire. Inter-mittent hostile artillery fire harassed our forward elements.

a. The 100th Infantry Division (254th Infantry attached) maintained its defensive positions. A strong raid launched from the center of the sector was successfully completed. Enemy artillery fire was moderate.

(1) The 398th Infantry improved its front line positions and prepared reserve and switch defensive positions. Normal patrolling was maintained throughout the night. The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539).

(2) No changes occurred in the location of units of the 399th Infantry. Elements of the 2d Battalion, supported by artillery and mortar fire, raided the high ground near STEINKOPF (Q7449), killed (estimated) 12 enemy and wounded 5. Searchlights were utilized to assist the raiding party and excellent results were attained. The 1st Battalion on the left and the 3d Battalion on the right held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451). The 2d Battalion was in reserve near LAMBA (Q7248).

(3) Units of the 397th Infantry consolidated and improved their positions. Normal reconnaissance patrols drew enemy machine gun fire from the vicinity of (Q7156). Scattered long range machine gun fire was received on forward positions. The 3d and 1st Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7453) - (Q7373) - (Q7255). The 2d Battalion remained in reserve in the vicinity of (Q7151).

(4) The 254th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) in reserve, continued preparation of counterattack plans. The 1st Battalion was at MONTBRONN (Q6844), the 2d Battalion at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. The 44th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions. Moderate harassing artillery fire fell along front line positions.

(1) The 324th Infantry continued to maintain and improve its defensive positions. Normal patrols were active throughout the period. The 2d, 3d, and 1st Battalions, from right to left, held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6855) - (Q6553) - (Q6453).

(2) No changes were made in the disposition of units of the 114th Infantry. At 0700 two platoons of the 3d Battalion attacked the enemy in a culvert near (Q6253). A fire fight ensued in which nine enemy were killed and 3 wounded (estimated). Heavy small arms fire forced our troops to withdraw. The 3d and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q6453) - (Q6253) - (Q6153) - (Q6055) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near WOELFLING (Q5954).

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(3) The 71st Infantry remained in the MAGINOT LINE reserve positions. The 1st and 2d Battalions held positions along the line: ROHRBACH (Q6550) - ACHEN (Q6049) - WITTRING (Q5650). The 3d Battalion was in reserve at KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

c. The 63d Infantry Division continued to improve and defend its front line positions. Patrols were active during the hours of darkness. Hostile artillery fire was moderate.

(1) All units of the 255th Infantry maintained and defended their positions of the previous period. The line: (Q6055) - (Q5956) - (Q5957) - (Q5658) - (Q5560) - (Q5459) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 253d Infantry held its positions on a quiet front. There was no close contact with the enemy. The 2d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q5459) - (Q5258) - (Q5157) - (Q5057) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in reserve at STEINBACH (Q5256).

(3) The 254th Infantry remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division.

d. The 70th Infantry Division occupied and improved its defensive positions along a quiet front. Moderate and scattered artillery fire fell on front line positions.

(1) The 275th Infantry maintained its front line positions. Reconnaissance patrols were dispatched. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4959) - (Q4560) with the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at HUNDLING (Q4556).

(2) No hostile activity was reported in the 274th Infantry sector. Additional work was accomplished to improve newly occupied positions. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q4360) - (Q4162). The 1st Battalion was in reserve at SEINGBOUSE (Q3457).

(3) Front line positions of the 276th Infantry were defended and improved. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left were in position from (Q4162) to (Q3665). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at FOLKLING (Q3861).

e. The 12th Armored Division closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of FAULQUEMONT (Q1750).


(1) CCA closed in the vicinity of LONGEVILLE (Q1958) at 1500 and by 1730 had relieved elements of the 10th Armored Division of the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River from BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1656) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) (both exclusive) and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCB closed in the vicinity of BAMBIDERSTROFF at 0730 and relieved elements of the 10th Armored Division of the counterreconnaissance screen from NARBESFONTAINE (Q1361) to BAMBIDERSTROFF west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(3) At 1730 the 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron relieved elements of the 10th Armored Division of the counterreconnaissance screen from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River.

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(4) CCR with elements of the 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE. CCR instituted a program of rehabilitation, maintenance and care of equipment in the vicinity of WOLFSKIRCHEN (05131). 

f. The 101st Cavalry Group completed the relief of the 106th Cavalry Group and assumed command of its sector at 1200. Positions were secured and a program of active patrolling was begun. Small arms and mortar fire was received in the sector,

(1) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron completed the relief of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in position at 1200 and began organization of the sector. Patrols were dispatched; one encountered small arms and machine gun fire from (Q3469). The squadron held the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370).

(2) At 1200 the 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron completed the relief of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron along the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174). Positions were organized and patrols were dispatched.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group, following relief by the 101st Cavalry Group, close in an assembly area in the vicinity of MERLEBACH (Q3361) and began a program of rehabilitation and training in Corps reserve.

h. XV Corps Artillery fired two counterbattery missions during the period. Hostile antiaircraft artillery in the vicinity of SARRIERBUCKEN (Q4671) was engaged while friendly aircraft attacked targets in and near the town. Twenty-five observe and nine unobserved harassing missions were fired during the period along the Corps front.

i. XV Corps Engineers completed a one-way timber bridge near (Q4957). The road and bridge maintenance program was continued.

j. XII Tactical Air Force flew 151 sorties over the Corps front during the day. No close support missions were possible because of poor visibility. Aircraft bombed and strafed marshalling yards to the Corps front in the vicinity of (R4186), (M3107), ALZEY (M2727), and KAISERSLAUTERN (R0294).

1. Six prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 1, the 63d Infantry Division 2, the 70th Infantry Division 2, and the 100th Infantry Division 1.

12. 12 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its defensive mission. The front was very quiet; except for several combat patrols, only routine front line activities were carried on. Hostile artillery fire was negligible.

Operations Instructions No. 119 XV Corps, dated 1200, 12 February 1945, announced the attachment of the 2d French Armored Division to XV Corps and directed in substance that:

The 2d French Armored Division move without delay to assembly areas to the west of DRULINGEN (Q6030).

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Elements of the division arrived in the vicinity of BASSING (Q3130), prior to 2400, 12 February.

One CC relieve CCR 12th Armored Division in the vicinity of WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131) on 13 February and move not later than 0900, 13 February to take over the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE to intercept and destroy enemy infiltration south of the MAGINOT LINE.

The remainder of the 2d French Armored Division move to an area west of MITTER-SHEIM (Q4129) and prepare to counterattack in the Corps sector east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

CCR 12th Armored Division (less elements of counterreconnaissance screen) move at 1300, 13 February 1945, to rejoin its division in the vicinity of FAULQUEMONT (Q1749). Upon relief by elements of the 2d French Armored Division, the elements of the counterreconnaissance screen of CCR move to the division assembly area. (11)

a. The 100th Infantry Division (254th Infantry attached) maintained the defenses in its sector and patrolled its front.

(1) The 398th Infantry improved its front line positions and prepared reserve and switch positions. Scattered artillery and mortar fire fell on front line positions. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) Combat patrols of the 399th Infantry maintained close contact with the enemy. A combat patrol of the 1st Battalion encountered five enemy 100 yards south of SUSSELS FARM (Q7452); after a brisk fight all enemy were either killed or captured. Another patrol of the 1st Battalion killed the occupant of a pillbox near (Q7550) and silenced an enemy machine gun to the right of that position before being forced to withdraw under strong small arms fire. The 3d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at LAMBACH (Q7248).

(3) Units of the 397th Infantry defended and improved their front line positions. A 1st Battalion patrol encountered enemy Schu mines, trip wires, and tactical wire near (Q7255). Moderate mortar fire fell on the positions of the 1st Battalion and automatic weapons fire was received on the positions of the 2d Battalion. The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "G" held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7373) - (Q7254) - (Q6955) with Company "G" on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (Q7151).

(4) The 254th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) maintained its reserve positions. The 1st Battalion was at MONTBRONN (Q6844), the 2d Battalion at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. Units of the 44th Infantry Division were shifted in order to bring elements of all three regiments on the front lines. The sector was very quiet; all changes in disposition were made without incident.

(1) The 324th Infantry continued to defend its previous front lines. Upon relief by the 2d Battalion 71st Infantry, the 1st Battalion 324th Infantry moved to the vicinity of HOELING (Q5752). The 2d and 3d Battalions held the regimental front: (Q6955) - (Q6855) - (Q6753) - (Q6553).

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(2) The 1st and 2d Battalions 71st Infantry moved from their reserve MAGINOT LINE positions and relieved elements of the 114th and 324th Infantry Regiments in position. By 2140 the 1st Battalion had relieved elements of the 114th Infantry in position and command of the sector passed to the 71st Infantry. The 2d Battalion relieved elements of the 324th Infantry in position by 2320. At the close of the period the 1st and 2d Battalions from left to right held the line: (Q6352) - (Q6253) - (Q6153). The 3d Battalion continued to organize reserve positions in the vicinity of KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

(3) The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. The 3d Battalion, upon relief by the 1st Battalion 71st Infantry at 2140, moved to the vicinity of WOELFLING (Q5954). Elements of the 2d Battalion also withdrew from the front line. At the close of the period the line: (Q6153) - (Q6054) was held by Companies "F" and "A". The remainder of the regiment concentrated at WOELFLING.

c. The 63d Infantry Division continued to defend and improve its positions. Routine patrolling produced negligible results.

(1) The 255th Infantry improved its positions. Patrols were active during the hours of darkness. The three battalions held the line: (Q6055) - (Q5956) - (Q5957) - (Q5658) - (Q5560) - (Q5459), with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

(2) No changes were made in the disposition of units of the 253d Infantry. Normal activities were performed along a quiet front. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q5459) - (Q5258) - (Q5157) - (Q5057) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in reserve at STEINBACH (Q5256).

(3) The 254th Infantry remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division.

d. The 70th Infantry Division continued to occupy and improve its defensive positions. In addition to performing normal front line duties, a training program was instituted.

(1) No action took place on the front of the 275th Infantry. Patrols captured three prisoners. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4959) - (Q4560) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at HUNDLING (Q4556).

(2) The 274th Infantry continued to defend its positions along a quiet front. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4360) - (Q4162) with the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at SEINGBOUSE (Q3457).

(3) The 276th Infantry sector was quiet. The 1st and 3d Battalions were on the line: (Q4162) - (Q3665) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at FOLKING (Q3861).

e. The 12th Armored Division remained in its assembly area in the vicinity of FAULQUEMONT (Q1750). Reconnaissance was conducted and plans were prepared for counterattack missions within the Corps sector.

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(1) CCA maintained the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River from BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1656) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) (both exclusive) and south of the MAGINOT LINE. Terrain was reconnoitered and studied for possible counter-attack missions. A program of rehabilitation and training was begun.

(2) CCB maintained the counterreconnaissance screen from NARBETONTAINE (Q1361) to BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1656). Those elements not engaged in this mission began a rehabilitation and training program.

(3) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the counterreconnaissance screen from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River.

(4) CCR 12th Armored Division maintained the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE. Units not engaged in this mission remained in the vicinity of WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131).

f. The 101st Cavalry Group organized and improved its newly assumed positions. The front was very quiet; no artillery fire was received.

(1) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved its positions along the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370). Patrols were sent out to the front of the squadron sector.

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied and adjusted its positions along the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174). Routine patrols were dispatched.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group was in Corps reserve in the vicinity of MERLEBACH (Q3261) and conducted a program of motor maintenance and limited training.

h. XV Corps Artillery fired five observed and three unobserved harassing missions on troops, CPs, and enemy vehicles during the day along the Corps front.

i. Adverse weather conditions made it impracticable for XII Tactical Air Force to furnish close air support for the Corps.

j. Seven prisoners were captured during the period in the Corps sector: the 44th Infantry Division captured 1, the 70th Infantry Division 3, and the 100th Infantry Division 3.

13. 13 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its defensive mission. Two raiding parties were dispatched to the right portion of the Corps sector and good results were attained. Enemy artillery activity increased during the period. No large concentrations were received, but intermittent fire fell all along the Corps front with the major portion falling on the right of the sector. CCR 2d French Armored Division closed in an assembly area in the right portion of the Corps sector.

Field Order 20 XV Corps, dated 2300, 13 February 1945, directed limited objective attacks to rectify and shorten the Corps front line:

The 100th Infantry Division was to conduct diversionary raids on "D-1/D" and prepare plans for additional raids on succeeding nights during the attacks.

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On "D" day the 44th Infantry Division was to attack and seize, occupy and defend the high ground: (Q6955) - (Q6756) - (Q6655) - (Q6356) - (Q6255) - (Q6155) - (Q6056). The 63d Infantry Division was to attack with its right elements in conjunction with the 100th Infantry Division to advance its right flank abreast of the left flank of the 44th Infantry Division.

On "D plus 2" the 63d Infantry Division was to attack in conjunction with the 70th Infantry Division and seize its objective, the general line: (Q5560) - (Q5361) - (Q5260) - (Q5162) - (Q5163) - (Q5064). The 70th Infantry Division was to attack and seize the ground along the general line: (Q4865) - (Q4787) - (Q4567) - (Q3971). (12)

a. The 100th Infantry Division (254th Infantry attached) maintained its defensive positions of the previous period. The front was more active than during recent days. One raiding party was dispatched in addition to normal patrol activity. Hostile artillery fire fell on roads and towns in the forward areas. PETIT REDERCHING (Q6950) was shelled intermittently.

(1) The 398th Infantry improved both its front line positions and its switch positions. A raiding party was successful in neutralizing numerous enemy emplacements in the vicinity of Hill 380 (Q7444). The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 3d Battalion on the left, the 1st Battalion in the center and the 2d Battalion on the right.

(2) Front line positions of the 399th Infantry were further developed and improved. Elements patrolled the front without encountering the enemy. Moderate mortar, sniper, and small arms fire was received on front line positions. The 3d and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at LAMBACH (Q7248).

(3) Mortar and artillery fire fell on the front line positions of the 397th Infantry. Normal patrolling was the only other activity reported. The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "G" from left to right held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7373) - (Q7254) - (Q6955). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at LAMBACH (Q7151).

(4) The 254th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) continued its training program and further improved its reserve positions. The 1st Battalion was at MONTEBRONN (Q6844), the 2d Battalion at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued to occupy and improve its defensive positions. One raid was successfully completed. BETTVILLER (Q6753) and the trail near (Q6953) received concentrations of hostile artillery fire, but forward towns and roads received the greater part.

(1) No direct contact with enemy infantry occurred in the 324th Infantry sector. Sporadic artillery and mortar fire fell on front line defensive positions throughout the period. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6855) - (Q6753) - (Q6553). The 1st Battalion was in reserve at HOELING (Q5752).

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(2) The 71st Infantry engaged in the improvement of newly acquired positions. Routine patrols were dispatched in the sector. Moderate artillery and sporadic small arms fire was received on forward elements. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q6553) - (Q6552) - (Q6253) - (Q6153) with the 1st Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve at KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

(3) The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. At 1900 the 2d Battalion conducted a raid on BELLEVUE FARM (Q6155). Enroute the party became involved in a fire fight with an enemy outpost and killed 2 enemy. The noise and confusion alerted the occupants of the farm, but the party succeeded in destroying an enemy machine gun near (Q6154) before returning to their lines. The line: (Q6153) - (Q6054) was held by Companies "A" and "F" with Company "A" on the left; the remainder of the regiment was in reserve at WOELFLING (Q5954).

c. The 63d Infantry Division improved its positions. Hostile artillery fire was very light.

(1) The 255th Infantry held and improved its defensive positions. The three battalions were abreast along the line: (Q6055) - (Q5956) - (Q5957) - (Q5657) - (Q5658) - (Q5560) - (Q5459) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion on the left, and the 1st Battalion in the center.

(2) No changes were made in the defensive positions of the 253d Infantry. The front was quiet. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q5459) - (Q5258) - (Q5057) with the 1st Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion was in reserve at STEINBACH (Q5256).

(3) The 254th Infantry remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division.

d. Front line positions of the 70th Infantry Division were maintained and improved without enemy interference. Moderate sporadic artillery fire fell on forward elements.

(1) The 275th Infantry held its front line positions. Additional combat training was given in rear areas. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4959) - (Q4560) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at HUNDLING (Q4556).

(2) No changes were made in the disposition of units of the 274th Infantry. Routine patrolling produced negative results. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4360) - (Q4162) with the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at SEINGBOUSE (Q3457).

(3) The 276th Infantry sector was held by the 1st and 3d Battalions with the 1st Battalion on the right along the line: (Q4162) - (Q3665). The 2d Battalion was at FOLKLING (Q3861).

e. The 12th Armored Division remained in its assembly area in the vicinity of FAULQUEMONT (Q1750). Plans were prepared for counterattacks within the Corps sector.

(1) CCA maintained the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River from BAIBIDERSTROFF (Q1656) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) inclusive. Training was conducted in the vicinity of LONGEVILLE (Q1958).

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(2) CCB maintained the counterreconnaissance screen from NARBONNE (Q1361) to BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1656). Elements continued a program of training and rehabilitation at the latter town.

(3) CCR (less the counterreconnaissance screen elements) moved at 1300 from the vicinity of WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131) to the vicinity of ZIEHLING (Q1559) and closed at 1830.

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (less Troop "C") maintained the counterreconnaissance from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River. Troop "C" 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGNOT LINE.

f. CCR, 2d French Armored Division, closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of WEYER (Q3728) by 1400.

g. The 101st Cavalry Group maintained and improved its defensive positions. Contact with the enemy was very light. Hostile artillery fire was moderate; a concentration was received in MORSEBACH (Q3668) at noon.

(1) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the line: (Q3665 - (Q3370) without enemy interference. Patrols were active throughout the period.

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved its positions along the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174). Normal patrolling was carried out.

h. The 106th Cavalry Group, in reserve, continued its program of training and rehabilitation at IERLEBACH (Q3261).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired 20 counterbattery and 74 harassing missions on enemy personnel and vehicles along the Corps front. Two concentrations were fired on enemy antiaircraft artillery in the vicinity of BITCHE (Q7750) and SARREGUEMIN (Q4571).

j. XV Corps Antiaircraft artillery fired twenty-two missions in field artillery roles. Searchlights were used during the latter part of the period in the sector of the 397th Infantry (100th Infantry Division).

k. XV Corps Engineers constructed a treadway bridge near (Q3043) and maintained the roads and bridges in the Corps sector.

l. XII Tactical Air Force flew 180 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. 12 aircraft bombed and strafed supply installations near (Q7856) in support of the 100th Infantry Division; 24 aircraft bombed and strafed strong points in the sectors of the 70th Infantry Division and the 101st Cavalry Group; 24 aircraft bombed and strafed troop concentrations in the vicinity of BIEBELSHEIM (Q5863) and WITTERSHEIM (Q5865) in support of the 63d Infantry Division; and 120 aircraft bombed and strafed rolling stock in the area: KAISERSLAUTERN (R0274) - HOMBERG (Q7181) - SARREBRUCKEN (Q4541) - ST WENDEL (R5997) destroying 9 locomotives, 107 railway cars, 63 motor transport, 121 buildings, 8 guns, and 18 trucks.

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m. Six prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 3, the 63d Infantry Division 1, and the 70th Infantry Division 2.

14. 14 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps maintained its defensive positions. The front was quiet; the right division of the Corps made minor raids while the other three front line divisions made preparations for the attacks prescribed in Field Order 20. Hostile artillery fire was moderate. The 2d French Armored Division continued movement to an assembly area west of MITTERSHEIL (Q4129).

a. The 100th Infantry Division (254th Infantry attached) improved its front line positions. Plans were made by all regiments for raids during the early hours of 15 February. Enemy artillery fire was very light.

(1) Scattered artillery and mortar fire fell on the front line defensive positions of the 398th Infantry. Routine patrols which were dispatched did not encounter the enemy. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) Positions of the 399th Infantry were improved throughout the period. The 1st Battalion, upon relief by the 2d Battalion in position, closed in reserve positions at 2245 in the area: SIERSTHAL (Q7149) - GLASSENBERG (Q7248) - LAIBACH (Q7248). The 2d and 3d Battalion held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451) with the 3d Battalion on the right.

(3) All units of the 397th Infantry consolidated and improved their defensive positions. No enemy artillery fire was received. The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "G" hold the line: (Q7452) - (Q7373) - (Q7254) - (Q6955) with the 1st Battalion on the left and Company "G" on the right. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at HOLBACH (Q7151).

(4) The 254th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) remained in division reserve. The 1st and 2d Battalions organized positions on the line: (Q6346) - VOLKSBERG (Q6738) - (Q6937), while the 3d Battalion assisted front line elements of the 398th Infantry in improving front line positions. The 1st Battalion was at MONTEBRONN (Q6844), the 2d Battalion was at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion was at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. Patrols of the 44th Infantry Division were active throughout the period. Only moderate artillery and mortar fire was received on front line positions.

(1) The 324th Infantry occupied and improved its defensive positions of the previous day. Hostile artillery fire was sporadic and moderate. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6855) - (Q6754) - (Q6653) - (Q6553). The 1st Battalion was in reserve at HOELING (Q5752).

(2) Patrols of the 71st Infantry were active throughout the period. Moderate artillery and mortar fire was received on front line defensive positions. The 2d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q6553) - (Q6353) - (Q6252) - (Q6153) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in reserve at KALHAUSEN (Q5747).

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(3) The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Patrols encountered enemy small arms fire near BRANDELFINGERHOF FARM (Q6154). "F" and "A" Companies held the regimental front along the line: (Q6153) - (Q6164) - (Q6054) - (Q6055) while the remainder of the regiment concentrated at WOELFING (Q5954) and made preparations for an attack on 15 February.

c. The 63d Infantry Division improved its positions. The enemy remained passive; his artillery fire was moderate.

(1) The 255th Infantry improved its defensive positions. Routine patrolling was carried on during the hours of darkness. The 3d, 1st and 2d Battalions, from right to left in that order, held the line: (Q6055) - (Q5956) - (Q5957) - (Q5657) - (Q5658) - (Q5560) - (Q5459).

(2) The 253d Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Routine patrols were dispatched. The 1st and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q5459) - (Q5258) - (Q5057) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve at STEINBACH (Q5256).

(3) The 254th Infantry was attached to the 100th Infantry Division.

d. The 70th Infantry Division occupied and improved its defensive positions. No artillery fire was reported as having fallen within the sector.

(1) No changes were made in the dispositions of units of the 275th Infantry. Normal patrolling continued. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4959) - (Q4560) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at HUNDLING (Q4556).

(2) The 274th Infantry maintained its positions on a quiet front. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held positions from (Q4360) to (Q4162). The 1st Battalion was in reserve at SEINGBOUSE (Q3457).

(3) The 276th Infantry occupied and improved its positions. Routine patrols failed to encounter the enemy. The line: (Q4162) - (Q3665) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at FOLKLING (Q3861).

e. The 12th Armored Division continued a program of training and rehabilitation. The Corps counterreconnaissance screen was maintained.

(1) CCA maintained the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River from BALBIDERSTROFF (Q1656) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) (both exclusive) and south of the MAGINOT LINE. Training was conducted in the vicinity of LONGEVILLE (Q1958).

(2) CCB maintained the counterreconnaissance screen from NARBESFONTAINE (Q1361) to BALBIDERSTROFF (Q1656). Elements not engaged on this mission continued a training and rehabilitation program at BALBIDERSTROFF.

(3) CCR assembled in the vicinity of ZIMMING (Q1559).

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(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the counterreconnaissance screen from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River and also continued the screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

f. Elements of CCV and CCD, 2d French Armored Division, closed in assembly areas west of MITTERSHEIM (Q4129) by 1930. Elements of CCR located at WEYER (Q3728) prepared to relieve elements of CCR 12th Armored Division of the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

g. The 101st Cavalry Group developed its positions on a quiet front. Numerous patrols were dispatched.

(1) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its positions along the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370).

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied and improved its positions along the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group in Corps reserve continued its training and rehabilitation program at MERLEBACH (Q3261).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired six counterbattery missions during the period. Forty-eight observed and 9 unobserved harassing missions were fired on vehicles and enemy troops all along the Corps front. A mission was fired on antiaircraft batteries in the vicinity of FORBACH (Q3965) which had been harassing friendly aircraft.

j. XV Corps Engineers maintained the roads and bridges in the Corps sector and assisted the divisions in the preparation of defensive positions.

k. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with 594 sorties. Thirty-six close support sorties were flown; EGUEISHARDT (Q8246), ALTHEIM (Q6963), and NEUALTHEIM (Q6763) were bombed and strafed with excellent results. In the area: KAISERSLAUTERN (R0274) - PIRMASENS (Q9066) - HOLBERG (Q7181) - NEUNKIRCHEN (Q8359) - SARREBRUCKEN (Q4541), railroad rolling stock was attacked with good results. A total of 152 medium bombers attacked the ST INGBERT depot (Q5375), the marshalling yards at LIEBACH (Q3990), and the supply depot near (Q4089); all bombs were reported within the target areas. The following claims were made: 276 railroad cars, 148 buildings, 50 motor transport, and 29 locomotives destroyed as well as many others damaged.

l. Fourteen prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: Corps troops captured 1, the 12th Armored Division 2, the 44th Infantry Division 5, the 70th Infantry Division 4, and the 100th Infantry Division 2.

15. 15 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps began a limited objective attack according to the plan contained in Field Order 20 and Operations Instructions 115 XV Corps. (See 13 February). The 44th Infantry Division attacked to rectify and strengthen its defensive positions. The high ground along the line: (Q6955) - (Q6756) - (Q6655) - (Q6656) - (Q6356) - (Q6255) - (Q6155) - (Q6056) was to be seized, occupied, organized, and defended. The 63d Infantry Division attacked with its right elements, in conjunction with the 44th Infantry Division to clear the BOIS de BLIES-BRUCKEN and to advance its right flank abreast of the left flank of the 44th Infantry Division. The attack was

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successfully carried out in the face of light to moderately heavy resistance. Hostile artillery reacted slowly to the attack and then the greater part of the fire fell well into the sector of the 100th Infantry Division.

a. The 100th Infantry Division (254th Infantry attached) conducted strong raids as a diversion for the attack on its left. All units held their defensive positions except for a slight advance on the extreme left. Hostile artillery fire increased considerably over that of the previous period; forward positions, towns, and troop concentrations were subjected to intermittent artillery and mortar fire.

(1) The 398th Infantry improved its front line and reserve positions. Hostile positions to the immediate front were successfully raided, and nine casualties were inflicted upon the enemy. Mortars of the 1st Battalion destroyed an enemy machine gun near (Q7442). The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left in that order held the line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539).

(2) The 399th Infantry defended along its front lines. A combat patrol conducted a raid in the vicinity of (Q7448) and (Q7447) and captured eight prisoners. Enemy positions were harassed with mortar and sniper fire with excellent results. The 2d and 3d Battalions with the 3d Battalion on the right held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7447) - (Q7451). The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the area SIERSTHAL (Q7149) - GLASSEIBERG (Q7248) - LAMBACH (Q7248).

(3) All units of the 397th Infantry improved their positions. Moderate artillery and mortar fire fell on front line positions. A 3d Battalion patrol destroyed a five man enemy patrol in the vicinity of (Q7453). Left elements of the 1st Battalion made a slight advance to tie in with the 324th Infantry (44th Infantry Division) near (Q6855). The 1st and 3d Battalions and Company "G" held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7354) - (Q7255) - (Q7075) - (Q6955); the 3d Battalion in the center and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was at HOLBACH (Q7151).

(4) The 254th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) continued work on reserve positions. The 1st Battalion was at MONTBRONN (Q6844), the 2d Battalion was at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion was at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. The 44th Infantry Division (with the 740th Tank Battalion attached) attacked and seized its objective. The front line was considerably shortened and RILLING (Q6555) was liberated. Hostile artillery reaction to the attack was slow and moderate. Forward positions were subjected to light artillery and mortar fire. BETTVILLER (Q6753) and RILLING (Q6555) received concentrations of enemy artillery and mortar fire.

(1) The 324th Infantry attacked at 0245 with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast, moved through the BUSCHENBUSCH WOODS (Q6756) against light resistance from small arms and mortar fire. The enemy was caught by surprise, many small pockets of resistance cut off and mopped up. By the end of the period the regimental objective had been seized. Sporadic artillery and mortar fire continued to fall throughout the sector for the remainder of the period. 161 prisoners were captured. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6756) - (Q6655) with the 2d Battalion on the right. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q6753).

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(2) The 3d Battalion 71st Infantry moved to the line of departure near KAIHAUSEN (Q5747) at 0245. The battalion jumped off at 0545, but was held up initially by rifle, automatic and mortar fire from SCHLOSSBERG Ridge (Q6454). By 1025 RIEHLING was captured with the assistance of tanks, tank destroyers, and artillery. The 2d Battalion attacked at 0545 against sporadic resistance and gained its objective on the line: (Q6656) - (Q6456) quickly. The 1st Battalion was committed at 1110 to assist the right of the 114th Infantry; by 1330 elements reached the objective (the line: (Q6356) - (Q6155)) of the 2d Battalion 114th Infantry. The 1st Battalion 71st Infantry was relieved in position by the 3d Battalion 114th Infantry at 1840 and closed in GUISING (Q6552). At the close of the period the 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q6656) - (Q6356).

(3) At 0615 the 114th Infantry with the 1st and 3d Battalions abreast attacked against small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire in the vicinity of BELLEVUE FARM (Q6154). The 1st Battalion attained its objective ((Q6156) - (Q6056) at 1130 in the face of small arms and automatic weapons fire. Elements of the 2d Battalion received strong opposition from the enemy in the vicinity of BRANDELFING-ERHOF FARM (Q6154), but assisted by the 1st Battalion 71st Infantry captured all buildings; other elements assisted by Company "A" 749th Tank Battalion cleared the woods in the vicinity of (Q6254) and captured numerous prisoners. The 3d Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion 71st Infantry on the objective of the 2d Battalion 114th Infantry at 1930. At the close of the period the 3d and 1st Battalions were in position along the line: (Q6355) - (Q6056). The 2d Battalion moved to reserve positions at WOELFLING (Q5954).

c. The 63d Infantry Division attacked on the right of its sector in conjunction with the 44th Infantry Division. The remainder of the division held its positions and supported the attack by fire. Scattered artillery and heavy caliber mortar and rocket fire was received on front line positions.

(1) The 3d Battalion 255th Infantry attacked at 0615 from the vicinity of (Q6055), but met heavy resistance from enemy in pillboxes and bunkers. By 1400, in the face of strong mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire, the right elements of the Battalion had achieved their objective ((Q6056) - (Q5966)) and had established contact with left elements of the 44th Infantry Division. The remainder of the battalion was still striving to reach its objective against heavy machine gun fire as the period ended. The 1st and 2d Battalion retained their positions. At the close of the period the 3d, 1st, and 2d Battalions, in that order from right to left, held the line: (Q6056) - (Q5956) - (Q5658) - (Q5559) - (Q5458).

(2) The 253d Infantry improved its positions. Fire support was given the 255th Infantry in its attack. Strong patrols dispatched returned with negative reports. The 2d and 1st Battalions remained in positions along the line: (Q5458) - (Q5358) - (Q5158) - (Q5157) - (Q4957) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 3d Battalion was in reserve at STEIBACH (Q5256).

(3) The 254th Infantry remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division.

d. The 70th Infantry Division improved its defensive positions. Routine patrols made no contact with the enemy. Preparations were made for a limited objective attack tentatively scheduled for the following day.

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(1) The 275th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. The line: (Q5057) - (Q4959) - (Q4560) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at HUNDLING (Q4556).

(2) The 274th Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions. The 2d and 3d Battalions, with the former on the right, held the line: (Q4360) - (Q4162). The 1st Battalion was in reserve at SEINGBOUSE (Q4457).

(3) The sector of the 276th Infantry remained quiet throughout the period. The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4162) - (Q3665). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at FOLKLING (Q3861).

e. The 12th Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen as directed. Motor maintenance and limited training was conducted in rear areas.

(1) CCA maintained the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from BAIBIDERSTROFF (Q4656) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) inclusive. Effective at 0800 CCA was placed on a five hour alert for prompt movement to repel any probable enemy counterattack west of the SARRE River. Training was continued at LONGEVILLE (Q1958).

(2) CCB maintained the counterreconnaissance screen from NARBESFONTAINE (Q1361) to BAIBIDERSTROFF (Q1656). Unit training progressed at BAIBIDERSTROFF.

(3) CCR continued a training program in the vicinity of ZIMMING (Q1559).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River. Elements of Troop "C" were relieved of previous counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE by CCR 2d French Armored Division and by 1300 had established a counterreconnaissance screen from CAPPEL (Q3552) to ERNSTVILLER (Q4352).

f. The 2d French Armored Division continued to arrive in the XV Corps area.

(1) CCR relieved Troop "C" 12th Armored Division of the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCD was in the process of closing in the vicinity of VERGAVILLE (Q2726) at the end of the period.

(3) CCV was in the process of closing in the vicinity of HERNY (Q0845) at the close of the period.

(4) The remainder of the 2d French Armored Division was enroute to the XV Corps sector.

g. The 101st Cavalry Group maintained its defensive positions. The sector was patrolled actively with negative results.

(1) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied defensive positions along the line: (Q3665) - (Q3370). Patrols dispatched to reconnoiter enemy positions became involved in fire fights in the vicinity of (Q3371).

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(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its defensive positions along the line: (Q3370) - (Q3174).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group continued its program of rehabilitation and training at MERLEBACH (Q3261).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired 27 counterbattery missions during the period. Eighty-two observed and 26 unobserved missions were fired on enemy personnel, vehicles, tanks, and assault guns along the Corps front. At the request of the 44th Infantry Division a series of defensive missions were fired along the high ground north of RÜLLING (Q6555) beginning at 0530.

j. XV Corps Engineers continued the program of road and bridge maintenance in the Corps area.

k. XII Tactical Air Force flew 516 sorties in support of XV Corps. Of this number 252 sorties were in close support as follows: 96 sorties supported the 44th Infantry Division attack with bombs, strafing, and rockets on enemy concentrations and strong points; 96 sorties supported the 63d Infantry Division against 16 tanks and approximately 100 vehicles in the woods in the vicinity of (Q5664) and (Q5064); 12 sorties supported the 101st Cavalry Group bombing and strafing enemy strong points and gun positions; 48 sorties hit supply points near (Q9064), (Q9376) and (Q5874). Rail movement was bombed and strafed in the KAISERSLAUTERN (R0274) - HOMBERG (Q7181) - NEUNKIRCHEN (Q8359) - SARREBRÜCKEN (Q4541) area with good results 9 enemy aircraft, 25 locomotives, 654 railroad cars, 186 buildings, and 47 motor transport were destroyed and considerable other material was damaged.

l. Four hundred and thirty-six prisoners were captured in the Corps sector: the 44th Infantry Division captured 406, the 63d Infantry Division 22, and the 100th Infantry Division 8.

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XV Corps continued its defensive mission. The enemy made several attempts to regain the ground lost during the previous period, but all attacks were successfully contained. Hostile artillery fire was moderate and of a harassing nature with the major portion of it falling on the right portion of the Corps sector.

a. The 100th Infantry Division (254th Infantry attached) continued to defend in the positions held at the close of the previous period. Front line, secondary, and switch positions were improved. Harassing enemy artillery fire was received throughout the period.

(1) The 398th Infantry improved its defensive positions, routine patrolling was conducted on the regimental front. Moderate artillery and mortar fire fell on front line positions. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) The enemy made three unsuccessful attempts to infiltrate into the positions of the 399th Infantry, but each time were turned back by small arms and mortar fire. Units continued to improve their front line positions. Active patrolling was carried out during the hours of darkness. The 3d Battalion was in posi-

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tion along the line: (Q7547) - (Q7349); the 2d Battalion was in position on the line: (Q7449) - (Q7551) - (Q7472); and the 1st Battalion was in reserve in the area: SIERSTHAL (Q7149) - GLASSEMBERG (Q7243) - HOLBACH (Q7248).

(3) Moderate artillery and mortar fire fell on the front line positions of the 397th Infantry. Units continued to adjust and improve their positions. The line: (Q7452) - (Q7255) - (Q7055) - (Q6955) was held with Company "G" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was at HOLBACH (Q7151).

(4) The 254th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) remained in reserve. The 1st Battalion was at MONTEROHN (Q6844); the 2d Battalion was at ENCHENBERG (Q7146), and the 3d Battalion was at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. The 44th Infantry Division repulsed attacks in each of its three regimental sectors during the period. Defensive positions were developed and organized in all sectors. Intermittent artillery and mortar fire fell on front line positions; RILLING (Q6555) and GUIRING (Q6552) received concentrations.

(1) At 0320 approximately one company of enemy infantry supported by engineers attacked in the 324th Infantry sector after an intense mortar and artillery preparation. Strong artillery, mortar, and small arms fire repulsed the attack by 0440; severe casualties were inflicted on the enemy. During the remainder of the period the sector was quiet except for sporadic artillery and mortar fire which fell on forward elements. Positions were organized and improved in the newly won sector. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6655) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q6753).

(2) At 0520 about 180 enemy infantry supported by five tanks attacked in the sector of the 2d Battalion 71st Infantry. Forward positions were overrun, but after the enemy had advanced approximately 500 yards the attack was contained. Elements of the regiment counterattacked at 0815 and by 0900 the positions had been restored. Upon relief in position at 1910 by the 1st Battalion, the 2d Battalion moved to the vicinity of GUIRING (Q6552). At the close of the period the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6655) - (Q6455) - (Q6456) - (Q6355).

(3) The 114th Infantry adjusted and improved its defensive positions. Sporadic artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the period. At 0540 about 200 enemy infantry attacked 3d Battalion positions in the vicinity of (Q6356) after first firing a strong mortar preparation. Closely coordinated artillery, mortar, and small arms fire repulsed the attack by 0900 and inflicted heavy losses upon the enemy. Fifty-six prisoners were captured and 30 enemy were killed. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6355) - (Q6155) - (Q6055). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at WOELFLING (Q5954).

c. The 63d Infantry Division attack on the right portion of its sector was continued until the objective of the previous day was captured. The remainder of the division held its defensive positions. Enemy mortar fire fell on the right portion of the division sector.

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(1) The 3d Battalion 255th Infantry attacked against heavy small arms and mortar fire until 1530 when the objective was taken and positions organized. At the close of the period the battalions were abreast on the line: (Q6056) - (Q5956) - (Q5658) - (Q5559) - (Q5458) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 253d Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions. A raid was carried out against HANWEILER (Q5057); the raiding party suffered some casualties from enemy mortar and machine gun fire, but captured 41 prisoners. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q5458) - (Q5358) - (Q5158) - (Q5157) - (Q4957). The 3d Battalion was in reserve at STEINBACH (Q5256).

(3) The 254th Infantry remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division.

d. The 70th Infantry Division continued to maintain and improve its defensive positions. Patrols were dispatched but made no contact with the enemy.

(1) The 275th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. No changes were made in the dispositions of its units. The 1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5057) - (Q4959) - (Q4560) with the 1st Battalion on the left and the 2d Battalion on the right.

(2) 274th Infantry positions were adjusted and improved along a quiet front. Normal patrolling continued. The 2d and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4360) - (Q4162) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was at SEINGBOUSE (Q3457).

(3) The 276th Infantry improved and adjusted its front line positions. Normal patrolling continued. The three battalions held the line: (Q4162) - (Q3665) with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

e. The 12th Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen and continued training in its assembly area.

(1) CCA was released from alert status at 0800, but continued to maintain the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1656) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) inclusive. Training was conducted at LONGEVILLE (Q1958).

(2) CCB was placed on a three hour alert status beginning at 0800. Elements continued to maintain the counterreconnaissance screen from NARBESFONTAINE (Q1361) to BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1656), Unit training continued at BAMBIDERSTROFF.

(3) CCR conducted small unit training and small arms range firing in its assembly area in the vicinity of ZELTING (Q1559).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River inclusive.

f. The 2d French Armored Division continued closing into the XV Corps area.

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(1) CCR maintained the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCL closed in an assembly area west of LUTTERSHEDD (Q4129) at 1600.

(3) CCD closed in VEARGAVILLE (Q2726) at 1618.

(4) CCV remained in its assembly area in the vicinity of HERNY (Q0845).

g. The 101st Cavalry Group improved its defensive positions and patrolled its sector.

(1) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its positions along the line: (Q3565) - (Q3368). Normal patrolling continued.

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved its positions along a quiet front on the line: (Q3368) - (Q3074).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group, in Corps reserve, continued its program of motor maintenance, training, and rehabilitation at LERLEBACH (Q3261).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired twenty-six counterbattery missions during the period. Ninety observed and 24 unobserved missions were fired on enemy targets along the Corps front.

j. XV Corps Engineers maintained the roads and bridges in the Corps sector and assisted the divisions in the preparation of defensive positions.

k. XII Tactical Air Force flew 331 sorties in support of XV Corps. Sixty sorties were flown in close support of the 44th Infantry Division: tanks were bombed and strafed in the vicinity of UTWILER (Q6858), in the vicinity of (Q6557), and in EROHING (Q6557); infantry and vehicles were strafed and bombed in the vicinity of MEDALSHEIM (Q6560) and BLIESKASTEL (Q6570) with unobserved results. Twenty-four sorties were flown in close support of the 70th Infantry Division; a strong point near (Q4165) was bombed and strafed with unobserved results. Twenty-four sorties were flown in close support of the 101st Cavalry Group; a strong point near WEHRDEN (Q3472) was bombed and strafed. Rail movement in the area: KAISERSLAUTERN (R0294) - HOLMBERG (Q7180) - ST INGBERT (Q5576) was attacked with good results.

l. One hundred and ninety-three prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 140, the 63d Infantry Division 50, and the 70th Infantry Division 3.

17. 17 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its mission of aggressive defense. The limited objective attack announced by Field Order 20, this Headquarters, was continued. The 63d Infantry Division was directed to attack on 17 February in conjunction with the 70th Infantry Division, and to seize as its objective the general line: (Q5560) - (Q5361) - (Q5260) - (Q5162) - (Q5163) - (Q5064). The 70th Infantry Division was

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directed to attack and seize the high ground along the general line: (Q4865) - (Q4787) - (Q4567) - (Q3971).

The 63d and 70th Infantry Divisions attacked against resistance which varied from light in some sectors to heavy, including mortar and artillery fire, supported by strong counterattacks in others. The 44th Infantry Division again repulsed several attacks without loss of ground. Hostile artillery fire increased during the period. The major portion of this fire was received in the sector of the 44th Infantry Division in support of the enemy counterattacks in that sector.

a. The 100th Infantry Division (254th Infantry attached) continued to defend along its front lines. Forward and secondary positions were further improved. All units carried out diversionary raids to assist the attacks by the 63d and 70th Infantry Divisions. Late in the day, the 254th Infantry (less 1 Battalion) was alerted for movement to the 63d Infantry Division sector. Enemy artillery fire continued moderate.

(1) The 398th Infantry improved its front line and reserve positions. During the night, a raiding party of the 3d Battalion became engaged in a fire fight with the enemy and inflicted about fifteen casualties. Moderate enemy artillery and mortar fire harassed forward positions during the night. The 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539).

(2) The 399th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. A raiding party from the 1st Battalion successfully raided SUSSELS FARM (Q7451). Hostile artillery fire increased in intensity during the period. The 3d Battalion was in position along the line: (Q7547) - (Q7349), the 2d Battalion held the line: (Q7449) - (Q7551) - (Q7472), and the 1st Battalion was in reserve in the area: SIERSTHAL (Q7149) - GLASSELBERG (Q7248) - LAMBACH (Q7248).

(3) The 397th Infantry improved its defensive positions. Normal patrolling was conducted on the regimental front. Enemy artillery fire was moderate. Company "F" and the 3d and 1st Battalions, from right to left in that order, held the line: (Q7452) - (Q7255) - (Q7055) - (Q6955). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at HOLBACH (Q7151).

(4) The 254th Infantry (less the 3d Battalion was alerted at 1835 for movement to the sector of the 63d Infantry Division. The 1st Battalion cleared MONTBRONN (Q6844) at 2300 and was enroute at the close of the period. At the same hour the 2d Battalion was preparing at ENCHENBERG (Q7146) for movement. The 3d Battalion remained at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243) and conducted training.

b. The 44th Infantry Division repulsed three attacks during the period. Strong artillery fire was received throughout the sector. Several large concentrations as well as harassing fires were received; towns and roads as well as positions in the forward areas were harassed.

(1) The 324th Infantry defended and improved its forward positions. At 0805 the 2d Battalion received an attack by an estimated force of one battalion supported by assault guns. The attack was repulsed by artillery, mortar, and small arms fire and the positions were restored by 1020. Enemy mortar and artillery fire, while intense during the attack, decreased to sporadic rounds for the remainder of the day. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the

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line: (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6655). The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q6753).

(2) At 0110 the enemy attacked the positions of the 1st Battalion 71st Infantry with about six to eight tanks supported by small groups of infantry. Artillery, tank destroyers, and small arms fire broke up the attack and destroyed two of the tanks. At 0120 the 3d Battalion was attacked by about five tanks supported by artillery fire. The tanks were dispersed before 0200 by artillery and tank destroyer fire after the destruction of one tank. The line: (Q6655) - (Q6455) - (Q6456) - (Q6355) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at GUISING (Q6552).

(3) The 114th Infantry defended and improved its positions. No close contact with the enemy occurred though hostile artillery fire increased in the sector of the 3d Battalion. The 3d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q6355) - (Q6155) - (Q6055) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at WOELFLING (Q5954).

c. The 63d Infantry Division attacked and made good progress against moderate resistance during the day. A counterattack late in the period was repulsed. Light enemy harassing artillery fire fell on forward elements throughout the period.

(1) Elements of the 2d Battalion 255th Infantry attacked at 0200 and reached the battalion objective in the vicinity of (Q5560) without resistance and held it at the close of the period. Two diversionary raids against HABSKIRCHEN (Q5659) and BLIESBRUCK (Q5957) were successfully completed and eleven prisoners were captured. The defenses of the new positions were organized. The three battalions abreast held the line: (Q6056) - (Q5867) - (Q5658) - (Q5560) - (Q5459) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 2d Battalion 253d Infantry attacked against moderate small arms and mortar fire at 0230 using searchlights for illumination, and by 1400 had seized its objective, the high ground in the vicinity of (Q5360), and had commenced the organization of its positions. At 1700 a counterattack by about 200 enemy and 2 tanks was repulsed with the assistance of artillery. The 3d Battalion crossed the BLIES River and reached its objective (Q5063) by 1355. The settlement in the vicinity of (Q5159) was cleared by 1700. The 1st Battalion crossed the SARRE River at 0450. The hill at (Q5059) was captured by 0905, AUERSBACHER (Q5060) was cleared by 1620, and the organization of the high ground 1000 yards south of the town was begun. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion was in position along the line: (Q5461) - (Q5261), the 3d Battalion was in position along the line: (Q5163) - (Q4962), and the 1st Battalion was in position along the line: (Q5160) - (Q4960).

(3) The 254th Infantry (less the 3d Battalion) reverted to control of the Commanding General 63d Infantry Division. The 1st Battalion cleared MONTBRONN (Q6844) at 2300 enroute to the sector of the 63d Infantry Division. The 2d Battalion was at ENCHENBERG (Q7146) prepared for movement to the 63d Infantry Division sector.

d. The 70th Infantry Division attacked in conjunction with the 63d Infantry Division and captured its initial objective against moderate to strong enemy resistance consisting mainly of small arms and automatic weapons fire. Two counter-

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attacks were repulsed and newly gained positions were consolidated.

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(1) The 273rd Infantry attacked at 0125 and met heavy rifle and machine gun fire from GRCBET, LIDERSTROFF (Q4862). At the close of the period the regiment organized positions in the BRANDERBUSCH WOODS (Q4763), HARDTWALD WOODS (Q4562), LIXING (Q4662) and along the roads east and west of LIXING. The 2d and 3d Battalions were on the line: (Q4957) - (Q4960) - (Q4761) - (Q4663) - (Q4463) - (Q4462) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (Q4460).

(2) The 274th Infantry attacked at 0430 against moderate small arms and mortar fire. The 2d Battalion cleared KERBACH (Q4363) by 1630. At the close of the period the 2d and 3d Battalions were disposed along the line: (Q4363) - (Q4364) - (Q4263) - (Q4264) - (Q4164) with the 2d Battalion on the right. The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (Q4362).

(3) The 276th Infantry attacked at 0001 against strong resistance from mortars, automatic weapons and small arms fire. The 1st Battalion advanced to FAHRBERG HILL (Q3964) and the 3d Battalion advanced to KELSBERG HILL (Q4064). Companies "B" and "I" which had entered OETING (Q3963) were forced to withdraw at 1830. The line: (Q4164) - (Q3963) - (Q3864) - (Q3763) - (Q3564) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and elements of the 2d Battalion and elements of the 70th Reconnaissance Squadron on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q3661).

c. The 12th Armored Division continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screens and to keep one combat command alerted to repel any probable enemy penetration.

(1) CCA maintained the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1656) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) inclusive. Unit training continued at LONGEVILLE (Q1958).

(2) CCB was released from alert status at 0800. Elements continued to maintain the counterreconnaissance screen from NARBESFONTAINE (Q1361) to BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1656). Training continued at BAMBIDERSTROFF.

(3) CCR at 0800 was alerted for movement on three hours notice to repel any probable enemy penetration.

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River, inclusive.

f. The 2d French Armored Division commenced a program of training and maintenance.

(1) CCR maintained the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCL continued training in an assembly area west of MITTERSHEIM (Q4129).

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(3) CCD continued training in an assembly area in the vicinity of VERGAVILLE (Q2726).

(4) CCV continued training in an assembly area in the vicinity of HERNY (Q0845).

g. In the sector of the 101st Cavalry Group, positions were maintained and improved. Units were rotated to provide relief for front line elements.

(1) The 165th Engineer Combat Battalions relieved the 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in position at 2400. Upon relief the 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron assembled in group reserve in the vicinity of (Q3264). The 165th Engineer Combat Battalion took up positions along the line: (Q3564) - (Q3369).

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its positions and patrolled its sector along the line: (Q3369) - (Q3073).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group, in Corps reserve, continued its program of training and maintenance in the vicinity of MERLEBACH (Q3261).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired 20 counterbattery missions during the period. A total of 315 observed and unobserved missions were fired on enemy targets during the period along the Corps front.

j. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery expended a total of 718 rounds on missions in field artillery roles. Elements of the 353d Searchlight Battalion illuminated the area in front of the 63d Infantry Division during the initial phases of its attack.

k. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 132 foot treadway class 40 bridge near (Q5157), a Class 9, 168 foot infantry support bridge near (Q5057), and a heavy ponton bridge Class 40 near (Q5057). Enemy minefields near (Q3268) and (Q5956) were cleared.

l. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish close air support in the XV Corps sector because of adverse weather conditions.

m. Four hundred and seventy prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 22, the 63d Infantry Division 261, the 70th Infantry Division 185 and the 100th Infantry Division 2.

18. 18 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its limited objective attack in the sector of the 70th Infantry Division. The enemy reacted to our advances and counterattacked several times without gain. Early in the period hostile artillery fire was moderate, but increased later in the period, particularly in the right of the Corps sector where towns in the forward areas were harassed.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. Hostile artillery fire was moderate.

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(1) Forward positions of the 398th Infantry (the 3d Battalion, 254th Infantry attached) were maintained and improved. Only moderate artillery and mortar fire was received on front line positions. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion, 254th Infantry, attached, was held in reserve at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

(2) The 399th Infantry maintained its front line positions. Routine patrols were dispatched along the regimental front. Hostile artillery was active with repeated concentrations placed on the ENCHEMBERG (Q7143) area. The 2d Battalion held the line: (Q7449) - (Q7551) - (Q7472), and the 3d Battalion was in position along the line: (Q7547) - (Q7349). The 1st Battalion remained in reserve in the SIERSTHAL (Q7149) - GLASSEMBERG (Q7248) - LALBACH (Q7248) area.

(3) All units of the 397th Infantry consolidated and improved their defensive positions. Normal patrolling continued. Enemy artillery fire continued moderate. The line: (Q7452) - (Q7252) - (Q7055) - (Q6955) was held with Company "F" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at HOLBACH (Q7151).

(4) The 254th Infantry (less 3d Battalion) reverted to control of the 63d Infantry Division on 17 February and all elements cleared the sector of the 100th Infantry Division during that period except the 2d Battalion. The 2d Battalion cleared the 100th Infantry Division sector at 0230. The 3d Battalion remained attached to the 398th Infantry.

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued to maintain its front line positions without interference from the enemy. Light hostile artillery fire continued to fall on forward elements. RILLING (Q6555) and troops in the general area (Q6844) received the heaviest concentrations.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained and improved its defensive positions. Patrols reported no close contact with the enemy. Only sporadic enemy mortar and artillery fire was received. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6655). The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry maintained and improved its defensive positions. Normal patrolling continued without contact with the enemy. The 3d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q6655) - (Q6455) - (Q6456) - (Q6355) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at GUIRING (Q6552).

(3) No changes were made in the dispositions of the units of the 114th Infantry. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6355) - (Q6155) - (Q6055). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at WOELFLING (Q5954).

c. The 63d Infantry Division defended its newly-acquired positions against several attacks without loss of ground. Sporadic, harassing artillery fire was received on forward positions. The 254th Infantry (less the 3d Battalion) closed in the Division area.

(1) The 255th Infantry improved its defensive positions and patrolled

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along a quiet front. The three battalions were abreast on the line: (Q6056) - (Q5867) - (Q5658) - (Q5560) - (Q5459) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 253d Infantry began the organization and defense of its newly-acquired positions. Three enemy attacks, two with tanks supporting, were repulsed without loss of ground. During the night numerous enemy infantry infiltrated into the VODERWILD (Q5063), but in the morning 40 of the enemy were killed and 87 were captured. Later in the day enemy infantry and tanks infiltrated into AUERSMACHER (Q5060) and were still there when the period closed. The 1st Battalion 254th Infantry, attached to the 253d Infantry late in the period, relieved elements of the 1st Battalion 253d Infantry prior to attacking AUERSMACHER on the following day. The 2d Battalion 253d Infantry was in position along the line: (Q5463) - (Q5260), the 3d Battalion was on the line: (Q5163) - (Q4962), and the 1st Battalion was near (Q5059).

(3) The 254th Infantry (less the 3d Battalion) closed in the sector of the 63d Infantry Division at 0630. The 1st Battalion was attached to the 253d Infantry and relieved elements of the 1st Battalion 253d Infantry in position on the line: (Q5160) - (Q4960). The 2d Battalion, in division reserve, was located at SARREGUEMINES (Q5157).

d. The 70th Infantry Division continued its attack to shorten and strengthen its positions. Several enemy counterattacks were repulsed. Hostile artillery fire was largely confined to the area in the vicinity of OETTING (Q4063).

(1) The 275th Infantry resumed the attack at daylight against moderate opposition. The 1st Battalion successfully mopped up the enemy in the HARDTWILD WOODS (Q4562) by 1120. The 2d Battalion cleared GROEBLIEDERSSTROFF (Q4862) by 1030 and advanced to the northeast edge of BRINDENBUSCH WOODS (Q4663). The 3d Battalion attacked and cleared ETZLING (Q4364) by 1520 against moderate small arms, automatic weapons and mortar fire. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q4961) - (Q4664) - (Q4364). The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (Q4360).

(2) The 274th Infantry resumed the attack at 0803 to seize the high ground south of STIRING WEINDEL (Q4167). The 2d Battalion advanced approximately two kilometers against moderate enemy rifle, automatic, and tank fire. At 1200 an enemy counterattack, supported by tanks, in the vicinity of ETZLING (Q4364) was broken up by artillery fire. The 3d Battalion advanced against light small arms resistance and secured KREUTZBERG HILL (Q4165). The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q4364) - (Q4165) - (Q3964). The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q4262).

(3) The 276th Infantry continued the attack toward FORBACH (Q3965) against moderately heavy opposition. The 1st Battalion cleared OETTING (Q4063) against light resistance by 1205. The 1st and 3d Battalions continued the attack and secured the high ground (Q3964) - (Q4665) - (Q4065) against light resistance from mortar and small arms fire. At the close of the period the units were disposed as follows on the line: (Q3964) - (Q3763) - (Q3565); the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion on the left, and the 3d Battalion in the center.

e. The 12th Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen and kept one Combat Command alerted against enemy penetration.

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(1) CCA maintained its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from BALBIDERSTROFF (Q1656) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) inclusive. At 0800 CCA was alerted for movement on three hours notice.

(2) CCB maintained the counterreconnaissance screen from NARBESFONTAINE (Q1361) to BALBIDERSTROFF (Q1656). Training continued in BALBIDERSTROFF.

(3) CCR was released from its alert status at 0800. Training was continued in the vicinity of ZILMING (Q1559).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River, inclusive.

f. The 2d French Armored Division continued its program of training and maintenance.

(1) CCR maintained the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCL continued training in the MITTERSIEB area (Q4129).

(3) CCD continued training in an assembly area in the vicinity of VERGAVILLE (Q2762).

(4) CCV continued training in an assembly area in the vicinity of HENNY (Q0845).

g. The 101st Cavalry Group occupied and improved its front line positions. Normal patrolling continued.

(1) The 165th Engineer Combat Battalion organized and improved positions along the line: (Q3565) - (Q3568).

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its positions on the line: (Q3565) - (Q3184).

(3) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was in Group reserve in the vicinity of (Q3264).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group, in Corps reserve, continued its program of training and maintenance in the vicinity of HERLEBACH (Q3261).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired 23 counterbattery missions during the period. A total of 112 observed and unobserved missions were fired on enemy targets along the Corps front. Prepared harassing missions were fired on towns, road junctions, and suspected CP locations in the area: SARREQUINNES (Q5157) - SARREBRUCKEN (Q4672).

j. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road and bridge maintenance and assisted the divisions in their preparation of defenses.

k. Because of adverse weather conditions, XII Tactical Air Force furnished no air support for the Corps during the period.

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1. Three hundred and fifty-six prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 22, the 63d Infantry Division 107, the 70th Infantry Division 222, and the 100th Infantry Division 5.

19. 19 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its limited objective attack in the sectors of the 63d and 70th Infantry Divisions. The enemy resisted vigorously and made strong counter-attacks on several occasions. Moderate enemy artillery and nebelwerfer fire was received.

Operations Instructions 123 XV Corps, dated 1200, 19 February directed, in substance that:

(1) The time of attack in the sector of the 101st Cavalry Group be changed from "D" plus 3, as directed in Field Order 20 XV Corps, until a time to be directed by this headquarters, after the 70th Infantry Division had attained the line: (Q3970) - (Q3771) - (Q3571) - (Q3372).

(2) Local attacks on the front of the 101st Cavalry Group were forbidden unless the localities attacked could be held, and further, that no patrols be left in areas in which they were in danger of being cut off. (13)

a. The 100th Infantry Division (3d Battalion 254th Infantry attached) continued its defensive mission. Enemy artillery fire was lighter than during previous periods.

(1) The 398th Infantry (3d Battalion 254th Infantry attached) continued to improve its primary and secondary defensive positions. Moderate artillery and mortar fire was received on the front lines. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion 254th Infantry was in reserve at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

(2) The 399th Infantry maintained its front line positions. Enemy positions in the vicinity of FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551) were harassed with artillery and mortar fire. Upon relief by the 1st Battalion at 2100, the 3d Battalion moved to the area: SIERSHAL (Q7149) - GLASSENBERG (Q7248) - LAMBACH (Q7248). The 1st Battalion was in positions along the line: (Q7547) - (Q7349), and the 2d Battalion held the line: (Q7449) - (Q7551) - (Q7472).

(3) All units of the 397th Infantry continued to improve their defensive positions. Patrols of the 2d Battalion failed to encounter the enemy. Moderate mortar fire was reported in the vicinity of (Q7255). The line: (Q7452) - (Q7252) - (Q7055) - (Q6955) was held with Company "E" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. The regiments of the 44th Infantry Division defended and improved their positions of the previous period. Hostile installations were harassed with small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire. Enemy artillery continued moderately strong and self-propelled guns and nebelwerfers were increasingly active.

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(1) The 324th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Normal patrol activity continued. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6655). The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry improved its positions along a quiet front. Only light contact by patrols was maintained with the enemy. The 3d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q6655) - (Q6455) - (Q6456) - (Q6355) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at GUIRING (Q6552).

(3) No change was made in the defensive dispositions of the 114th Infantry. The regimental front was covered by patrols which maintained light contact with the enemy. The line: (Q6355) - (Q6155) - (Q6055) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at WOELFLING (Q6552).

c. The 63d Infantry Division continued limited objective attacks in the left of its sector and held firmly on its right. Only one counterattack was attempted by the enemy during the period. Hostile artillery fire was moderate along the front; roads in the vicinity of the SARREGUEMINES bridgehead near (Q5157) were harassed.

(1) The 255th Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions without interference from the enemy. The three battalions abreast held the line: (Q6056) - (Q5867) - (Q5658) - (Q5560) - (Q5459) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 253d Infantry (1st Battalion 254th Infantry attached) continued its attack. Elements of the 2d Battalion captured BLIESGERSVILLER (Q5261) by 1355, against heavy opposition from small arms and automatic weapons and some mortar fire, while the remainder of the battalion held and improved its positions. The 1st Battalion captured AUERSMACHER (Q5060) by 1150 against moderate mortar and small arms fire. Elements of the 3d Battalion (Company "B" attached) attacked and captured KLEINBLITERSDORF against moderate small arms opposition, by 1825. The remainder of the battalion continued to improve their positions. After the capture of KLEINBLITERSDORF (Q4962) by elements of the 3d Battalion with Company "B" attached, elements of the 1st Battalion moved to block the road between KLEINBLITERSDORF and AUERSMACHER while other elements moved to SARREGUEMINES (Q5157) to protect the bridge in that area. An enemy counterattack on the regimental left flank at 124 was repulsed by artillery fire without loss of ground. The 1st Battalion 254th Infantry cleared the MUHLEN WOODS (Q5259) and the WORKERS SETTLEMENT (Q5159) against moderate small arms and automatic weapons fire before it occupied defensive positions near (Q5061) in the rear of the 3d Battalion 253d Infantry. The line: (Q5461) - (Q5361) - (Q5261) - (Q5161) - (Q5163) - (Q4962) - (Q4862) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, elements of the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion with the remainder of the 1st Battalion on the left.

(3) The 254th Infantry (less the 1st and 3d Battalions) was in division reserve in the vicinity of SARREGUEMINES. The 3d Battalion remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division and the 1st Battalion remained attached to the 253d Infantry.

d. The 70th Infantry Division continued its attack against strong mortar, automatic weapons, and small arms fire. Two enemy counterattacks were repulsed

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without loss of ground. Enemy artillery fire was moderate and self-propelled guns and nebelwerfers were particularly active.

(1) Patrols of the 275th Infantry penetrated SPICHEREN (Q4466) during the night and found the town occupied by the enemy. The 3d Battalion was attached to the 274th Infantry at 1550 for the assault on SPICHEREN only in order to better coordinate the attack on the town. GLOSBLITTERSDORF (Q4862) was completely mopped up by the 2d and 1st Battalions against moderate small arms fire. Positions were consolidated, and patrols were dispatched to the front during the day's operations. At the close of the period, the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q4862) - (Q4664) - (Q4365). The 1st Battalion was near (Q4461).

(2) At 0730 the 2d Battalion 274th Infantry, with the 1st and 3d Battalions assisting by fire, continued the attack and gained approximately one kilometer securing the high ground in the vicinity of (Q4267). The 3d Battalion 275th Infantry (attached) attacked at 1500 against strong small arms and mortar fire and at the close of the period had reached the initial objective, the high ground south of SPICHEREN in the vicinity of (Q4365). At 1700 the enemy counterattacked the positions of the 2d Battalion, but was repulsed by artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. Patrols operated along the STIRING WENDEL (Q4167) - FORBACH (Q3965) road. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion held the line: (Q4365) - (Q4266) - (Q4065). The 3d Battalion was near (Q4164), and the 1st Battalion was near (Q4263).

(3) The 1st and 3d Battalions 276th Infantry continued the attack at daylight, captured the objective, CASTLE HILL (Q3965), by 1515 against strong opposition from small arms and mortars; continued to the edge of FORBACH, securing the high ground to the south and southwest of that town. The enemy counterattacked at 2000, but was repulsed by artillery and small arms fire. The 1st and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q4065) - (Q3965) - (Q3864) - (Q3664) - (Q3564) with the 1st Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Q3562).

e. The 12th Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE. One combat command was alerted to repel probable enemy offensive moves.

(1) CCA was released from alert status at 0800, but continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River from BALBIDERSTROFF to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) inclusive and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) At 0800 CCB was alerted for movement on three hour's notice to repel a probable enemy penetration. The counterreconnaissance screen from NARBEEFONTAINE (Q1361) to BALBIDERSTROFF (Q1656) was maintained.

(3) CCR continued its training program in the vicinity of ZIMMING (Q1559).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River, inclusive.

f. The 2d French Armored Division continued its program of training and maintenance.

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(1) CCR maintained the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARTRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCL continued training in the MITTERSHEIM area (Q4129).

(3) CCD continued training in an assembly area in the vicinity of VERGAVILLE (Q2726).

(4) CCV continued to train in an assembly area in the vicinity of HERNY (Q0845).

g. The 101st Cavalry Group occupied and improved its defensive positions. Normal patrolling was continued.

(1) The 165th Engineer Battalion maintained its positions along the line (Q3564) - (Q3368).

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved its defensive positions along the line: (Q3368) - (Q3173). Routine patrols were dispatched.

(3) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, in Group reserve, was near (Q3264).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group, in Corps reserve, continued its program of training and maintenance in the vicinity of MERLBACH (Q3261).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired a total of 23 counterbattery missions, including two large concentrations of mixed caliber and types in the vicinity of BITCHE (Q7750) and MOUTERHOUSE (Q7942). A total of 59 observed and 82 unobserved harassing missions were fired during the day along the Corps front on enemy targets. During the night 19 prepared harassing missions were fired from SARTREBRUCKEN (Q4672) to HORNBAACH (Q7365) on enemy targets.

j. XV Corps Engineers continued its program of road and bridge maintenance. Treadway bridges over an anti-tank ditch were completed in the vicinity of (Q5359) and (Q5059).

k. XII Tactical Air Force supported the Corps with a total of 108 sorties. MEDELSEIM (Q6661) was bombed by 12 aircraft in support of the 44th Infantry Division. In support of the 63d Infantry Division, 60 aircraft bombed and strafed ORLESHEIM (Q5766), EISEHEIM (Q5467), ESCHRINGEN (Q5365), FECHINGEN (Q5166), and the road block in the vicinity of (Q5065). Twelve sorties each were flown in support of the 70th Infantry Division and the 101st Cavalry Group; enemy motor transportation, GIESLAUTERN (Q3471), and a factory in the vicinity of (Q3673) were bombed and strafed. The ammunition dump in the vicinity of (Q7270) was also bombed and strafed. A total of 114 railway cars, 13 motor transport, 54 buildings, and 4 locomotives were believed to be destroyed and considerable damage was caused to other types of equipment.

l. Two hundred and twenty prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 8, the 63d Infantry Division 105, and the 70th Infantry Division 107.

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20. 20 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its limited objective attack in the sector of the 70th Infantry Division. The enemy was less aggressive than during recent periods; no enemy attacks were received. Enemy artillery fire decreased in intensity as compared to the previous period, with harassing fires being placed on forward elements of the 44th and 63d Infantry Divisions.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. The enemy maintained his passive attitude along the division front. Hostile artillery fire was light; the left portion of the division sector being harassed with 88mm fire.

(1) The 398th Infantry (3d Battalion 254th Infantry attached) improved its defensive positions. The 1st and 2d Battalions occupied previously prepared positions which shortened and improved their front lines. Patrols reconnoitered enemy positions without encountering the enemy. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion 254th Infantry remained in reserve at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

(2) The 399th Infantry continued to defend and improve positions along its front lines. Tank destroyer, artillery, and small arms fire was used to harass the enemy in the vicinity of FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551). Hostile mortar and small arms fire, in turn, harassed the left portion of the regimental sector. The 1st Battalion was in position along the line: (Q7547) - (Q7349), the 2d Battalion held the line: (Q7449) - (Q7551) - (Q7452), and the 3d Battalion was in reserve in the area: SIERSSTHAL (Q7149) - GLASSELBERG (Q7248) - LAMBACH (Q7248).

(3) All units of the 397th Infantry improved their forward positions. Normal patrolling continued. Moderate enemy artillery fire was received in the vicinity of (Q7055). The line: (Q7452) - (Q7250) - (Q7055) - (Q6955) was held with Company "E" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. The regiments maintained and improved their front line positions although harassed by light caliber enemy artillery fire.

(1) Defensive positions of the 324th Infantry were further strengthened by the installation of mines and tactical wire. Patrols conducted reconnaissance to locate new enemy positions. Hostile artillery fire was sporadic with the exception of one large concentration in the 3d Battalion sector. Upon relief by the 1st Battalion in position at 2055, the 2d Battalion closed prior to the end of the period in reserve positions in the vicinity of BETVILLER (Q6753). The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6655).

(2) No change was made in the disposition of elements of the 71st Infantry, but work continued to improve defensive positions. Seven prisoners were captured by patrols in the vicinity of (Q6456). Hostile artillery and mortar fire continued sporadic throughout the day. The line: (Q6655) - (Q6455) - (Q6456) -

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(6355) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at GUIRING (Q6552).

(3) The 114th Infantry occupied and improved its defensive positions. Patrols were dispatched to the front during the hours of darkness. The 3d and 1st Battalions held the line: (Q6355) - (Q6155) - (Q6055) with the 3d Battalion on the right. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve at WOELFELING (Q6552).

c. The 63d Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions. One enemy attack in the left of the sector was successfully repulsed. Hostile artillery fire continued moderate; moderate concentrations were received in the SARREGUEMINNE (Q5157) area.

(1) The 255th Infantry continued to defend and improve its positions. Intermittent mortar and small arms fire was received on front line positions. Elements of the 2d Battalion were relieved in position by the 2d Battalion 254th Infantry. At the close of the period the line: (Q6056) - (Q5956) - (Q5658) - (Q5559) - (Q5459) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 254th Infantry (less the 1st and 3d Battalions) moved into front line positions. By 2400 the 2d Battalion relieved elements of the 253d and 255th Infantry Regiments in position on the line: (Q5459) - (Q5360) - (Q5461) - (Q5261). The 3d Battalion remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division and the 1st Battalion remained attached to the 253d Infantry.

(3) The 253d Infantry (1st Battalion 254th Infantry attached) established road blocks and emplaced mines on the division left flank to prevent infiltration of enemy armor. The 3d Battalion repulsed a small enemy attack at 0750 with artillery and small arms fire. Elements of the 2d Battalion were relieved in position by elements of the 2d Battalion 254th Infantry. The line: (Q5261) - (Q5161) - (Q5163) - (Q4962) - (Q4862) was held with the 3d Battalion in the center and elements of the 1st Battalion on the right and left. The 2d Battalion moved to reserve positions near (Q5359).

d. The 70th Infantry Division continued its attack against increasing enemy resistance. Two light counterattacks were repulsed without loss of ground. Moderate enemy artillery fire harassed forward elements.

(1) The 275th Infantry continued its attack with two Battalions abreast against moderately heavy small arms and mortar fire and by 0850 ALSTING (Q4565), ZINZING (Q4664), and HESSELING (Q4664) were cleared. A minor enemy counterattack at 0915 was repulsed by small arms fire. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q4862) - (Q4763) - (Q4765) - (Q4664) - (Q4265). The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q4461).

(2) The 274th Infantry consolidated positions on its initial objective along the line: (Q4265) - (Q4166) - (Q4065). Patrols were sent during the night into STIRING-WENDEL (Q4166). At 0700 the enemy counterattacked with a platoon of infantry from the northeast, but was repulsed without loss of ground. The 3d Battalion 275th Infantry (attached only for coordination of the attack on SPICHEREN (Q4466)) continued its attack towards SPICHEREN against strong small arms and automatic weapons fire. The 3d Battalion held the line: (Q4265) - (Q4166) - (Q4065). The 1st and 2d Battalions were in supporting positions near (Q4263) and (Q4164), respectively.

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(3) An enemy counterattack at 0200 in the sector of the 276th Infantry was halted by small arms and mortar fire. The 1st and 3d Battalions assisted by tanks attached FORBACH (Q3965). Street fighting consisting of small arms and automatic weapons fire was in progress at the close of the period. The 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q4065) - (Q3965) - (Q3763) - (Q3564).

e. The 12th Armored Division maintained the counterreconnaissance screen in its assigned sector and continued training in assembly areas.

(1) CCA maintained its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from BAMBIDESTROFF (Q1656) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) inclusive. Units conducted tank and infantry training in assembly areas at LONGEVILLE les ST AVOLD (Q1958).

(2) CCB was released from alert status at 0800. The counterreconnaissance screen from NARBIFONTAINE (Q1261) to BAMBIDESTROFF (Q1656) was maintained.

(3) CCR was alerted for movement on three hours notice at 0800 to repel any probable enemy penetration in the Corps sector west of the SARRE River. A training program was continued in the vicinity of ZIEHING (Q1559).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to maintain the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River, inclusive.

f. The 2d French Armored Division continued its program of training and maintenance.

(1) CCR maintained the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCL continued training in the MITTERSHEIM area (Q4129).

(3) CCD continued training in the vicinity of VERGAVILLE (Q2726).

(4) CCV continued training in an assembly area in the vicinity of HERNY (Q0845).

g. The 101st Cavalry Group (165th Engineer Battalion attached) held and improved its defensive positions. Routine patrolling continued.

(1) The 165th Engineer Battalion maintained its defensive positions along the line: (Q3566) - (Q3368).

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied and defended positions along the line: (Q3368) - (Q3369) - (Q3073).

(3) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was in Group reserve near (Q5264).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group continued training, in Corps reserve, in the vicinity of MERLEBACH (Q3261).

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i. XV Corps Artillery fired 128 counterbattery missions during the period. A total of 43 observed and 29 unobserved harassing missions were fired on enemy targets along the Corps front. A program of prepared missions was fired during the night on enemy targets forward of the Corps sector.

j. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 90 foot DS Class 30 Bailey Bridge near (Q4462) and a one-way steel stringer Class 40 bridge to replace a Bailey Bridge at (Q2353). Roads and bridges in the Corps sector were maintained.

k. XII Tactical Air Force flew 60 sorties, 48 close support and 12 long range in support of XV Corps. ESCHRINGEN (Q5466) and HARTUNGSHOF (Q5364) were attacked with bombs and rockets in close support of the 63d Infantry Division with excellent results. Rail movement on the line: KAISERSLAUTERN (R0239) - LAMBRECHT (R2486) and near (Q9684) was bombed and strafed with good results. The tunnel near (R1891) was closed. Twelve aircraft attacked the supply dump and motor transport at LUDWIG-SWINKEL (Q9553) and near (Q9453) with bombs and rockets.

l. Eighty-four prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period the 44th Infantry Division captured 8, the 63d Infantry Division 3, and the 70th Infantry Division 73.

21. 21 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its limited objective attack to rectify and straighten its front lines. The attack made good progress against strong enemy resistance. Hostile artillery fire was again concentrated in the sector of the 44th Infantry Division. The other division sectors received only moderate harassing fire with several strong concentrations on towns in the forward areas.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission on a quiet front. With the exception of SARREINSBERG (Q7441) which received 10 rounds during the morning, enemy artillery fire was confined to moderate concentrations on OPs.

(1) The 398th Infantry (3d Battalion 254th Infantry attached) maintained and patrolled its front line positions. Development of reserve and switch positions and special training of raider platoons continued. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion 254th Infantry was in reserve at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

(2) No change was made in the dispositions of the units of the 399th Infantry. Enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire decreased noticeably during the day. The 1st Battalion was in position along the line: (Q7547) - (Q7359), the 2d Battalion held the line: (Q7449) - (Q7551) - (Q7452), and the 3d Battalion was in reserve in the area: SIERSTHAL (Q7149) - GLASSEMBERG (Q7248) - LAMBACH (Q7248).

(3) The 397th Infantry continued to defend along its front lines with all units engaged in consolidating and improving their positions. Moderate artillery fire was received during the period. The line: (Q7452) - (Q7250) - (Q7055) - (Q6955) was held with Company "E" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. The regiments of the 44th Infantry Division maintained their front line positions. The enemy attitude continued passive; only one small patrol attempted

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to enter our lines. OPs, RJs, front line positions, and the towns of RILLING (Q6555) and GUIRING (Q6552) were harassed by enemy artillery fire and rockets.

(1) The 324th Infantry improved its defensive positions in the right portion of the division sector. The period was generally quiet except for sporadic artillery, mortar, and rocket fire on forward positions. At 0510 a small enemy patrol entered the positions of the 1st Battalion near (Q6856), but was driven off by machine gun and small arms fire. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6655). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry concentrated its efforts during the period on the improvement of individual fox holes and weapons emplacements. Upon relief by the 2d Battalion without incident at 2235, the 3d Battalion began movement to reserve positions in the vicinity of GUIRING (Q6552). The movement had not been completed at the close of the period. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6655) - (Q6455) - (Q6456) - (Q6355).

(3) The 114th Infantry improved its defensive positions in the left portion of the division sector. A raiding party of the 1st Battalion which departed at 2000, returned at 2337 after having found the enemy positions near (Q6156), as well as the ground 200 yards to the north, unoccupied. Sporadic artillery and nebelwerfer fire was received during the period. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6355) - (Q6155) - (Q6055). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at OWELFLING (Q6552).

c. The 63d Infantry Division continued its attack. The 254th Infantry made contact with elements of the 70th Infantry Division at the left limiting point (Q4864). Enemy self-propelled guns harassed the division front lines and the SAUREGUEMINES bridgehead area (Q5157) with moderate fire.

(1) The 255th Infantry improved its defensive positions. Enemy mortar fire increased during the period. The line: (Q6056) - (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5559) - (Q5459) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

(2) Elements of the 254th Infantry (less the 1st and 3d Battalions completed the relief of elements of the 253d Infantry at 0500 and assumed responsibility for the sector. The 2d Battalion held the line: (Q5459) - (Q5360) - (Q5361) - (Q5261). The 3d Battalion remained attached to the 100th Infantry Division and the 1st Battalion remained attached to the 253d Infantry.

(3) The 253d Infantry (1st Battalion 254th Infantry attached) continued its attack north of KLEINSELTERS DORF (Q4862). The 1st Battalion made physical contact with the 70th Infantry Division at the left limiting point near (Q4864). The 2d Battalion was relieved in position by the 2d Battalion 254th Infantry at 0500 and moved to the vicinity of NEUNKIRCH (Q5358). At the close of the period the line: (Q5261) - (Q5162) - (Q5164) - (Q4963) - (Q4864) was held with the 1st Battalion 254th Infantry on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left.

d. The 70th Infantry Division continued its attack against strong resistance.

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An enemy counterattack was repelled by the concentration of enemy artillery fire was received near (Q4266) and light harassing fires were received on forward elements.

(1) The 275th Infantry continued its attack to shorten the Regiment's front against heavy fire from enemy tanks, artillery, and small arms. At 1200 an enemy company counterattack supported by four tanks forced a slight withdrawal. Patrolling was coordinated with elements of the 63d Infantry Division in the GROSSLITTERSDORF (Q4862) area. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q4864) - (Q4567) - (Q4366). The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q4464).

(2) The 274th Infantry also attacked. At 0935 the 1st Battalion, with elements of the 2d Battalion attached, captured SPICHEREN (Q4466) by 1315 and then advanced to the high ground north of the town against strong resistance from small arms fire from pillboxes late in the period. The 2d Battalion attacked to the north at 0830 and reached the high ground southeast of STIRING WENDEL (Q4167). The 3d Battalion continued to patrol in the vicinity of STIRING WENDEL. The 3d Battalion held the line: (Q4366) - (Q4266) - (Q4065). The 2d Battalion was near (Q4264) and the 1st Battalion was near (Q4263).

(3) The 276th Infantry resumed its attack on FORBACH (Q3965) at daylight. Strong enemy and civilian sniper fire continued throughout the day. Enemy artillery and mortar fire continued very strong. At the close of the period one third of the town was captured. The 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q4065) - (Q3965) - (Q3766) - (Q3564).

e. The 12th Armored Division continued to hold one combat command on an alert status and maintained its counterreconnaissance screen.

(1) At 0800 CCA was placed on a 3 hour alert to repel a probable enemy penetration of the Corps sector. Training continued in the LONGEVILLE les ST AVOLD (Q1958) area, and the counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from BAIBIDERSTROFF (Q1656) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352), inclusive, was maintained.

(2) CCB maintained its counterreconnaissance screen from NARBESFONTAINE (Q1261) to BAIBIDERSTROFF (Q1656). Training continued at BAIBIDERSTROFF.

(3) CCR was released from its three hour alert at 0800. Training continued in the vicinity of ZIMMING (Q1559).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River, inclusive.

f. The 2d French Armored Division continued its program of training and motor maintenance.

(1) CCR maintained its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCL continued training in the LITTERSHEIM area (Q4129).

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(3) CCD continued training in the vicinity of VERGAVILLE (Q2726).

(4) CCV continued training in the vicinity of HERNY (Q0845).

g. The 101st Cavalry Group (165th Engineer Battalion attached) maintained its defensive positions. Hostile artillery fire was moderate.

(1) The 165th Engineer Battalion occupied and improved its defensive positions along the line: (Q3566) - (Q3368).

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron held positions along the line: (Q3368) - (Q3566) - (Q3073). Routine patrolling and front line duties continued.

(3) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued in Group reserve near (Q5264).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group, in Corps reserve, continued training in the vicinity of MERLEBACH (Q3261).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired 42 counterbattery missions during the period. A total of 50 observed and 69 unobserved missions were fired during the day on enemy targets along the Corps front. During the night 8 prepared harassing missions were fired at the request of the 63d and 70th Infantry Divisions in the area north of SARRIGUEMINES (Q5157).

j. XV Corps Engineers completed the construction of a 90 foot Class 40 Bailey bridge near (Q4462), a 50 foot Bailey bridge near (Q4662), a 70 foot Class 40 Bailey bridge near (Q4462), a 2-way Class 40 steel stringer bridge near (Q1253), a 20 foot Class 40 steel stringer bridge near (Q1135), a 20 foot Class 40 steel stringer bridge at (Q1656), and a 24 foot Class 40 trestle bridge near (Q1355).

k. XII Tactical Air Force flew 148 sorties in support of XV Corps; 70 of these sorties were in close support of the divisions. Twelve aircraft bombed an ammunition dump in the vicinity of (Q7061) for the 44th Infantry Division. The enemy training school in OBERWURZBACH (Q5771) was attacked with bombs and rockets for the 63d Infantry Division. Enemy personnel and positions north of FORBACH (Q3965) were strafed and attacked with bombs and rockets by 12 aircraft for the 70th Infantry Division. Twelve aircraft bombed and strafed HASTENBACH (Q3374) in support of the 101st Cavalry Group. The remainder of the aircraft bombed marshalling yards at (Q9376), ZWIEBRUCKEN (Q7272), NEUNKIRCHEN (Q6084), (Q4791), KAISERSLAUTERN (R0274), and near (Q9291); and supply dumps near (Q6283), (Q6082), (Q4584), and (Q4779).

l. Three hundred and twenty-seven prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 14, the 63d Infantry Division 6, the 70th Infantry Division 303, and the 100th Infantry Division 4.

22. 22 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its limited objective attack against moderate resistance. Enemy artillery fire followed much the same pattern as that of the previous period.

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but decreased in intensity. That portion of the Corps sector held by the 44th Infantry Division again received the bulk of the enemy fire.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. Hostile artillery fire was moderate and scattered.

(1) The 398th Infantry (3d Battalion 254th Infantry attached) improved its front line positions. Normal patrolling was conducted. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion 254th Infantry remained in reserve near ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

(2) The 399th Infantry maintained and improved its front line positions. Artillery and small arms fire harassed the enemy in the vicinity of FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551). Sporadic enemy artillery and mortar fire was received on forward positions. The 1st Battalion was in position along the line: (Q7547) - (Q7359) and the 2d Battalion held the line: (Q7449) - (Q7551) - (Q7452). The 3d Battalion was in reserve in the area: SIERSTHAL (Q7149) - GLASSELBERG (Q7248) - LAMBACH (Q7248).

(3) All units of the 397th Infantry consolidated and improved their defensive positions. Normal patrolling continued. Moderate artillery fire was received on forward elements. The line: (Q7452) - (Q7250) - (Q7055) - (Q6955) was held with Company "E" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued to strengthen the positions held during the previous period. Enemy artillery fire continued to be moderate; RIMLIN (Q6555) and the high ground to the west of that town received harassing fires throughout the day.

(1) No changes were made in the dispositions of the 324th Infantry. Patrols and raiding parties were active, but no close contact with the enemy occurred. Sporadic mortar and artillery fire continued throughout the period. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6655). The 2d Battalion was in reserve near BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Normal patrols were dispatched. Sporadic artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the period. The line: (Q6655) - (Q6455) - (Q6456) - (Q6355) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve in the vicinity of GUISSING (Q6552).

(3) The defensive positions of the 114th Infantry were improved during the period. Normal patrolling was carried out. Upon relief in position at 2015 by the 2d Battalion, the 1st Battalion moved to reserve positions in the vicinity of WOELFLING (Q5954) and closed at 2100. At the close of the period the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6355) - (Q6155) - (Q6055).

c. The 63d Infantry Division continued to maintain and improve its positions. Hostile artillery fire was moderate and scattered.

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(1) The 255th Infantry, with the 3d, 1st, 2d Battalions from right to left, continued to improve its positions on the line: (Q6056) - (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5559) - (Q5459).

(2) The 254th Infantry (less the 1st and 3d Battalions) maintained its positions on a quiet front. The 2d Battalion sent out reconnaissance patrols, but no enemy was encountered. The 2d Battalion held the line: (Q5459) - (Q5360) - (Q5361) - (Q5261). The 1st Battalion and the 3d Battalion remained attached to the 253d Infantry and the 100th Infantry Division respectively.

(3) The 253d Infantry (1st Battalion 254th Infantry attached) continued defend its positions. The line: (Q5261) - (Q5162) - (Q5164) - (Q4963) - (Q4864) was held with the 1st Battalion 254th Infantry on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion was in reserve near HEUNKIRCH (Q5358).

d. The 70th Infantry Division continued its attack and made good progress against moderate opposition. Several light enemy counterattacks were repulsed without loss of ground. Enemy artillery fire was received in slightly heavier concentrations than during the previous period; BOUSBACH (Q4261), GAUBIVIER (Q4062), MORSBACH (Q3763), SPICHEREN (Q4466), and ALSTING (Q4565) received concentrations,

(1) The 275th Infantry renewed its attack to shorten its line at 0800 against strong enemy small arms resistance from pillboxes in conjunction with the attack of the 274th Infantry. At 2030 a light counterattack was repulsed by small arms and mortar fire. At the close of the period, the regiment was firmly established on the regimental objective, the high ground north of SPICHEREN (Q4466). The three battalions were abreast on the line: (Q4864) - (Q4667) - (Q4567) - (Q4466) - (Q4467) - (Q4367) with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 274th Infantry with the 1st and 3d Battalions attacked at 0800 to seize positions on the high ground north of SPICHEREN. Elements of the regiment received the same counterattack as received by 275th Infantry and assisted in repulsing it. Elements of the 3d Battalion gained the high ground south of the FORBACH (Q3965) - SARRIEBRUCKEN (Q4571) road although opposed by moderately heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q4367) - (Q4267) - (Q4065). The 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q4264).

(3) The 276th Infantry continued its attack with the 3d Battalion at daylight to capture FORBACH. Steady progress was made in house to house fighting against strong machine gun, mortar, and small arms fire until by the close of the period about two-thirds of the town was captured. The line: (Q4065) - (Q3966) - (Q3864) - (Q3564) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

e. The 12th Armored Division continued to hold one combat command on a three hour alert and to maintain its counterreconnaissance west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

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(1) At 0800, CCA was placed on its three hour alert. The counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from BABIDERSTROFF (Q1656) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352), inclusive, was continued. Units not engaged in that mission continued training in the vicinity of LONGEVILLE les ST AVOLD (Q2058).

(2) At 0800 CCB was placed on a three hour alert to repel a probable enemy penetration in the Corps sector west of the SARRE River. The counterreconnaissance screen from NARBESFONTAINE (Q1261) to BABIDERSTROFF (Q1656) was maintained.

(3) CCR continued to train in the vicinity of ZIMMING (Q1559).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River inclusive.

f. The 2d French Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE with one combat command while the remainder of the units continued to train.

(1) CCR continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCL continued to train in the MITTERSHEIM (Q4129) area.

(3) CCD continued to train in the VERGAVILLE (Q2726) area.

(4) CCV continued to train in the HERNY (Q0845) area.

g. The 101st Cavalry Group (165th Engineer Battalion attached) maintained its defensive positions on a quiet front.

(1) The 165th Engineer Battalion held positions along the line: (Q3564) (Q3367) - (Q3368). Positions were improved and the front was patrolled without interference by the enemy.

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron consolidated and improved its defensive positions along the line: (Q3368) - (Q3270) - (Q3073).

(3) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in Group reserve near (Q5264).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group, in Corps reserve, continued its motor maintenance and limited training program in the vicinity of MERLEBACH (Q3261).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired a total of 23 counterbattery missions during the period. A total of 25 observed and 99 unobserved missions were fired during the day on enemy personnel and vehicles on the Corps front. During the night a program of prepared missions was fired on suburbs of SARREBRUNNEN (Q4572) and towns along the SARRE River. Road interdictions in the 70th, 63d, and 44th Infantry Division sectors were fired.

j. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 50 foot Class 40 Bailey bridge near

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(Q4662), a 70 foot Class 40 Bailey bridge near (Q4462), and a 100 foot Class 30 Bailey bridge near (Q4364).

k. XIII Tactical Air Force flew 120 sorties in support of XV Corps; 40 sorties in close support of the divisions. In support of the 100th Infantry Division, 12 aircraft attacked VOLMUNSTER (Q7258) with bombs and rockets and 12 aircraft bombed the ammunition dump near (Q7061). In support of the 70th Infantry Division, 6 aircraft strafed and attacked with bombs and rockets pillbox and strong point near (Q4066), and bombed and destroyed two trains of 15 cars each in SARREBRUCKEN. The remainder of the aircraft supporting the Corps destroyed railroad rolling stock in the Corps zone, bombed out an overpass near (Q7690), and destroyed a factory near (Q5684).

l. Four hundred prisoners were captured during the period in the Corps sector the 44th Infantry Division captured 2, the 63d Infantry Division captured 2, the 100th Infantry Division captured 6, and the 70th Infantry Division 390.

23. 23 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its limited objective attack; numerous enemy counterattacks in the sector of the 70th Infantry Division were repulsed and an additional section of FORBACH (Q3965) was cleared. Hostile artillery fire continued to be moderate with the greater part of it concentrated as during previous periods in the 44th Infantry Division sector.

Operations Instructions 124 XV Corps, dated 1000, 23 February, changed the limiting point between the 44th Infantry Division and the 63d Infantry Division from HERBITZHEIM (Q5246) to (Q4945). (14)

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. Aggressive raiding parties and patrols were successful in reducing several enemy strong points. Moderate harassing fire was received from enemy artillery.

(1) The 398th Infantry (3d Battalion 254th Infantry attached) continued to improve front line positions. Aggressive patrolling of enemy positions by reconnaissance and combat patrols continued. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion 254th Infantry remained in reserve at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

(2) Only minor company reliefs were made in the sector of the 399th Infantry. Harassing fires on enemy positions in the vicinity of FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551) were continued. An increased amount of enemy mortar, artillery, and small arms fire was received during daylight hours. The 1st Battalion held the line: (Q7547) - (Q7349) and the 2d Battalion the line: (Q7449) - (Q7551) - (Q7452). The 3d Battalion occupied reserve positions in the area: SIERSTHAL (Q7149) - GLASSENBERG (Q7248) - LAMBACH (Q7248).

(3) The 397th Infantry adjusted and improved its positions. A combat patrol from the 1st Battalion silenced machine guns near (Q7156) and (Q7056). Moderate mortar fire was received on 3d Battalion positions. The line: (Q7452) -

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(Q7250) - (Q7055) - (Q6955) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion (-) was in reserve at HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division sent out strong patrols from its defensive positions. No enemy infantry attempted to approach our positions. Hostile self-propelled artillery continued to harass the forward areas of the division.

(1) The 324th Infantry improved its defensive positions of the previous period. A raiding party from the 2d Battalion silenced an enemy machine gun position in the vicinity of (Q6956). Sporadic enemy artillery and mortar fire was received on forward positions. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6655). The 2d Battalion remained in reserve at BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Intermittent enemy artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the period. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6655) - (Q6455) - (Q6456) - (Q6355). The 3d Battalion was in reserve at GUISSING (Q6552).

(3) The 114th Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions. Sporadic enemy artillery and mortar fire was received on forward positions. The 114th (Q6355) - (Q6155) - (Q6055) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near WOELFLING (Q5954).

c. The 63d Infantry Division defended and improved its positions. A raiding party acquired valuable information regarding enemy dispositions though no close contact with the enemy occurred. Only one moderate concentration of enemy artillery fire was received in the sector.

(1) The 255th Infantry continued to improve and defend its positions on a quiet front. The three battalions abreast held the line: (Q6056) - (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5559) - (Q5459) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 254th Infantry (less the 3d Battalion attached to the 100th Infantry Division) organized and improved its defensive positions. The 1st Battalion reverted to regimental control at 0100 and closed in STEINBACH (Q5255) by 1000. A combat patrol from the 2d Battalion raided BLIESLENGEN (Q5461) at 0045 and reported that the enemy had withdrawn from the town. The 2d Battalion continued to hold the line: (Q5459) - (Q5361) - (Q5261) - (Q5162).

(3) The 253d Infantry maintained its positions. The 3d Battalion repelled without loss of ground several enemy attempts to infiltrate into its positions. At 0100 the 1st Battalion 254th Infantry reverted to regimental control. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q5162) - (Q5163) - (Q4963) - (Q4964). The 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q5258).

d. The 70th Infantry Division continued its attack to the north and northwest against moderate resistance. Several large concentrations of enemy artillery fire were received on forward elements and one large concentration was received in GEFERTWALD WOODS (Q4467).

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(1) The 275th Infantry with elements of the 3d Battalion cleared snipers from Le GIFERTWALD WOODS by 0830. Several small enemy counterattacks were repulsed with small arms and automatic weapons fire during the day while defensive positions were being organized. The line: (Q4964) - (Q4767) - (Q4668) - (Q4467) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 2d Battalion 274th Infantry attacked and cleared the enemy from the SANGENWALD (Q4266). Repeated counterattacks of approximately platoon strength were beaten off without loss of ground. The 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q4467) - (Q4369) - (Q4267) - (Q4065).

(3) The 2d Battalion 276th Infantry aided by tanks continued to mop-up FORBACH (Q3965) against moderate resistance from enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire, while the 1st and 3d Battalions maintained their positions along the railroad tracks. The line: (Q4065) - (Q3966) - (Q3665) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

c. The 12th Armored Division continued to hold one combat command on a three hour alert and to maintain the counterreconnaissance screen in its assigned sector.

(1) CCA maintained its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from BALBIDERSTROFF (Q1656) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) inclusive. Training was continued at LONGEVILLE les ST AVOLD (Q2058).

(2) At 0800 CCB was released from its three hour alert. The counterreconnaissance screen from NARBESFONTAINE (Q1261) to BALBIDERSTROFF (Q1656) was maintained.

(3) At 0800 CCR was placed on a three hour alert to repel a probable enemy penetration in the Corps sector west of the SARRE River. Training was continued near ZIMMING (Q1559).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River inclusive.

f. The 2d French Armored Division maintained the counterreconnaissance screen in its assigned sector with one combat command. Training continued in assembly areas.

(1) CCR continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCL continued to train in the MITTERSHEIM (Q4129) area.

(3) CCD continued to train in the VERGAVILLE (Q2726) area.

(4) CCV continued to train in the HERNY (Q0845) area.

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g. The 101st Cavalry Group (165th Engineer Battalion attached) continued to maintain and improve defensive positions in its sector.

(1) The 165th Engineer Battalion maintained its positions along the line (Q3665) - (Q3369) without interference from the enemy.

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied defensive position along the line: (Q3369) - (Q3174). Patrols carried on limited reconnaissance.

(3) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, in Group reserve, continued to train near (Q5264). One patrol made a reconnaissance to the vicinity of (Q3371), and found the position unoccupied.

h. The 106th Cavalry Group, in Corps reserve, continued its motor maintenance and limited training program near MERLEBACH (Q3261).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired 31 counterbattery missions during the period, a total of 46 observed and 27 unobserved harassing missions were fired during the day on enemy troop concentrations, vehicles, and supply installations along the Corps front. During the night prepared harassing missions were fired on RJs, bridges, and assembly areas in the area: SARREBRUCKEN (Q4671) - BEBELSHEIM (Q5863)

j. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road and bridge maintenance and assisted the divisions in the preparation of defensive positions.

k. XII Tactical Air Force flew 108 sorties in support of XV Corps. Forty-eight of these sorties were close support missions: 12 aircraft bombed and strafed ERCHING (Q6557) and WAESHEIM (Q6361); 12 aircraft bombed and strafed factories at BLIESRANSBACH (Q5263) and BUBINGEN (Q4964); "depth" bombs with long delayed-action fuzes were used with very good results. The following long range missions were flown: the factory near (Q7270) was bombed and strafed by 12 aircraft, and the gun position near (Q7472) was bombed and strafed; five locomotives at HOIBURG (Q7180) were bombed and destroyed; an ammunition dump near (Q6882), a supply dump near (Q4983), and a factory near (Q4965) were all destroyed. Ten ME-109s were destroyed and two were damaged during the days operations.

l. Two hundred fifty-six prisoners were captured during the period in the Corps sector: the 44th Infantry Division captured 6, the 63d Infantry Division 8, the 100th Infantry Division 3, and the 70th Infantry Division 239.

24. 24 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its limited objective attack with good results. Strong raids conducted in the right of the Corps sector were also successful. Enemy counterattacks in the sectors of the 63d and 70th Infantry Divisions were repulsed without loss of ground. Hostile artillery fire was confined to moderate harassing concentrations with the greater portion of the fire falling on towns in the sector of the 70th Infantry Division.

Information was received from Seventh Army to the effect that the 2d French Armored Division was soon to be detached from XV Corps. (15)

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued to maintain its defensive positions

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without change in the disposition of its units. Several raids on enemy positions achieved excellent results. Hostile artillery remained inactive except for moderate harassing fires on forward elements of the Division.

(1) The 398th Infantry (3d Battalion 254th Infantry attached) continued to improve its front line, reserve, and switch positions. Normal reconnaissance patrols were dispatched. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion 254th Infantry was in reserve at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

(2) The 399th Infantry maintained its positions and patrolled its sector. The 3d Battalion continued to harass the enemy at FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551) with artillery and automatic weapons fire. The 1st Battalion was in position along the line: (Q7547) - (Q7349), the 2d Battalion held the line: (Q7449) - (Q7551) - (Q7452), and the 3d Battalion was in reserve in the area: SIERSTHAL (Q7149) - GLASSENBERG (Q7248) - LAMBACH (Q7248).

(3) The 397th Infantry consolidated and adjusted its positions; only minor company reliefs occurred. Light enemy artillery fire was received on 3d Battalion positions. The line: (Q7452) - (Q7250) - (Q7055) was held with Company "G" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued to improve its defensive positions. The enemy was more aggressive than during previous periods and made an attempt to penetrate positions in the left portion of the sector. Hostile artillery fire harassed front line elements.

(1) Only minor company reliefs occurred in the sector of the 324th Infantry. Hostile artillery fire was sporadic. No contact with the enemy was made. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6655). The 2d Battalion remained in reserve at BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions. Active patrolling to the front was carried on. The line: (Q6655) - (Q6455) - (Q6456) - (Q6355) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion was in reserve at GUISSING (Q6552).

(3) The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. At 0505 an enemy force estimated as a platoon attempted to enter the woods near (Q6056), but was driven off by artillery and mortar fire. The 3d Battalion raided enemy positions near (Q6256), captured four prisoners, and located five enemy machine gun positions. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6355) - (Q6155) - (Q6055). The 1st Battalion was in reserve at WOELFLING (Q5954).

c. The 63d Infantry Division attacked and attained all its objectives. Hostile artillery fire in the sector was moderate; front line units were harassed with light caliber weapons.

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(1) The 255th Infantry continued to defend and improve its positions. Thirteen prisoners were captured in raids on HABKIRCHEN (Q5659) and BLIESBRUCK (Q5957). The three battalions abreast held the line: (Q6056) - (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5559) - (Q5459) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 254th Infantry conducted limited offensive operations against the enemy. The 2d Battalion raided BLIESMENGEN (Q5461) and BLIESBOLCHEN (Q5461) against very stiff resistance, received 5 casualties, and captured no prisoners. The 1st Battalion at 2400 made a limited objective attack against slight resistance and captured its objectives at (Q5262). The 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q5459) - (Q5360) - (Q5361) - (Q5362). The 3d Battalion was attached to the 398th Infantry 100th Infantry Division.

(3) The 253d Infantry attacked with all three Battalions in its sector at 0630 and against slight resistance consisting primarily of small arms fire, siezed its objectives: (Q5263), (Q5264), (Q4964), and cleared the towns of BUBINGEN (Q4964) and BLIESRANSBACH (Q5363). At 1600 the enemy counterattacked near (Q5164) in company strength supported by six to eight armored vehicles and forced friendly troops to make a slight withdrawal. The attack was repulsed by small arms, mortar, and artillery fire and positions were restored against strong resistance from enemy infantry and armor by 2225. The line: (Q5362) - (Q5364) - (Q5065) - (Q4965) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left.

d. The 70th Infantry Division did not advance during the day. Several moderate enemy counterattacks were repulsed during the period. Hostile artillery fire harassed the towns in the sector with ST AVOLD (Q2556) subjected to the heaviest fire.

(1) Positions of the 275th Infantry were consolidated and improved. An enemy attack in the 1st Battalion sector consisting of infantry supported by four tanks was repulsed by artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. The 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q4864) - (Q4767) - (Q4668) - (Q4467).

(2) The 274th Infantry (Company "F" 276th Infantry attached) was occupied in cleaning up and organizing its sector. Small groups of enemy in GEFERTWALD WOODS (Q4467) were mopped up. At 1400 an enemy attack in company strength from the vicinity of STIRINGWENDEL (Q4167) was repulsed with mortar and small arms fire and the enemy was driven from the woods. The line: (Q4467) - (Q4366) - (Q4267) - (Q4065) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left. Company "F" 276th Infantry was in reserve near (Q4365).

(3) The 276th Infantry (less Company "F") maintained its positions along the railroad track in FORBACH (Q3965) and continued to mop up and patrol the streets. Hostile artillery fire was received throughout the day. The 2d Battalion (less "F" and "G" Companies) assembled in the vicinity of COCHEREN (Q3661). The line: (Q4065) - (Q3966) - (Q3665) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and Company "G" on the left.

3. The 12th Armored Division continued to hold one combat command on a three hour alert and to maintain the counterreconnaissance screen in its assigned sector.

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(1) At 0800 CCA was placed on a three hour alert to repel a probable enemy penetration in the Corps sector west of the SARRE River. The counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE was maintained from BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1656) - to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) inclusive.

(2) CCB maintained its counterreconnaissance screen from NARBONNE (Q1261) to BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1556). Training was continued near the latter town.

(3) At 0800, CCR was released from its three hour alert. Training continued near ZIMMING (Q1559).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River, inclusive.

f. The 2d French Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen in its assigned sector with one combat command. Training continued in assembly areas.

(1) CCR continued its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCL continued to train in the MITTERSHEIM (Q4129) area.

(3) CCD continued to train in the VERGAVILLE (Q2726) area.

(4) CCV continued to train in the HERNY (Q0845) area.

g. The 101st Cavalry Group (165th Engineer Battalion attached) maintained and improved its positions. Limited patrolling continued.

(1) The 165th Engineer Battalion maintained its positions along the line (Q3665) - (Q3369).

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved its defensive positions along the line: (Q3369) - (Q3174). Reconnaissance patrols operated along the front.

(3) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, in Group reserve, continued to train near (Q5264). A patrol was sent to the vicinity of (Q3371) but returned with negative information.

h. The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, in Corps reserve, continued to train near MERLEBACH (Q3261).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired 23 counterbattery, 30 observed, and 95 unobserved missions on enemy targets along the Corps front. A prepared harassing program of 18 missions was fired on road junctions and cross roads commencing at dusk. Two tanks were reported knocked out in the area north of SARREGUEMINES (Q5157).

j. XV Corps Engineers completed a 68 foot, 3 span one-way Class 70 two-way Class 40 steel stringer bridge near (Q3161) and a one-way Class 40 Bailey bridge near (Q4861).

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k. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with 36 close support sorties. Twelve aircraft supported the 63d Infantry Division by bombing and strafing enemy armor and motor transport in the vicinity of (Q5465); three tanks were reported damaged. Twenty-four aircraft bombed and strafed the marshalling yards and motor transport in the vicinity of HOMBERG (Q7181); six enemy trucks and one locomotive were reported damaged.

l. Four hundred ten prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: The 44th Infantry Division captured 6, the 63d Infantry Division 354, the 70th Infantry Division 44, and the 100th Infantry Division 6.

25. 25 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued to organize and defend its positions. The enemy displayed little inclination for offensive action; one local attack was repulsed without loss of ground. Hostile artillery fire was limited to small concentrations along the Corps front except for several large concentrations which fell in the 70th Infantry Division sector.

Operations Instructions 127 XV Corps, dated 2030, 25 February, directed in substance, that:

Effective 1200, 28 February, command of the sectors occupied by the 63d Infantry Division, the 70th Infantry Division, and the 101st Cavalry Group pass to control of XXI Corps. The boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps to be as follows: BLIESBRUCK (Q5957), WIESVILLER (Q5853), HERBITZHEIM (Q5246), SARRATBE (Q4844), and INSMING (Q3740) inclusive to XV Corps; limiting points: (Q5956), (Q5651), and (Q2834).

The 44th Infantry Division to relieve those elements of the 63d Infantry Division in the sector between the division left boundary and the new Corps left boundary prior to 0600, 28 February.

The 100th Infantry Division to move the 3d Battalion, 254th Infantry, to an area designated by the Commanding General 63d Infantry Division prior to 1200, 28 February. Effective upon arrival in the 63d Infantry Division area, the 3d Battalion, 254th Infantry to revert to the control of the 63d Infantry Division. (16

a. The 100th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions. Moderate artillery concentrations fell on forward positions.

(1) The 398th Infantry (3d Battalion 254th Infantry attached) continued to improve its positions. Patrols reconnoitered enemy positions. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion 254th Infantry was in reserve at ST LOUIS lcs BITCHE (Q7243).

(2) 399th Infantry positions were maintained. Enemy positions in the vicinity of FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551) were harassed with automatic weapons and machine gun fire. The 1st Battalion was in position along the line: (Q7547) - (Q7349), the 2d Battalion held the line: (Q7449) - (Q7551) - (Q7452), and the 3d Battalion remained in reserve in the area: SIERSTHAL (Q7149) - GLASSEMBERG (Q7248) - LAMBACH (Q7248).

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(3) Defensive positions of the 397th Infantry were improved. Moderate artillery and mortar fire fell within the sector. The line: (Q7452) - (Q7250) - (Q7055) was held with Company "G" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued to develop its positions of the previous period. Enemy activity and artillery fire was slight.

(1) No changes were made in the dispositions of units of the 324th Infantry. Sporadic enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on forward positions. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6655). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at BELTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry maintained its front line defensive positions. Active patrolling continued. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was sporadic and moderate. The line: (Q6655) - (Q6455) - (Q6456) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve at GUIRING (Q6552).

(3) The 114th Infantry defended its positions of the previous period. Aggressive patrolling by front line units produced negative results. At 1940 the 1st Battalion relieved, without incident, the 2d Battalion; the latter unit moving to the vicinity of WOELFLING (Q5954) and closing at 2010. The 1st Battalion on the left and the 3d Battalion on the right held the line: (Q6355) - (Q6155) - (Q6055).

c. The 63d Infantry Division consolidated its gains of the previous period. One enemy local attack was repulsed. Moderate enemy artillery fire fell on forward positions.

(1) The 255th Infantry maintained and improved its positions. Normal patrolling was conducted. The line: (Q6056) - (Q5955) - (Q5658) - (Q5559) - (Q5459) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 254th Infantry (less the 3d Battalion attached to the 100th Infantry Division) maintained its positions. Eighteen prisoners were captured by patrols during the day. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q5459) - (Q5360) - (Q5361) - (Q5362).

(3) The 253d Infantry established contact with elements of the 70th Infantry Division on its left and improved its defensive positions. At 0715 an attack by about 40 enemy infantrymen near (Q5364) was repulsed by artillery and machine gun fire. The three battalions abreast, from right to left, the 1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions held the line: (Q5263) - (Q5364) - (Q5065) - (Q4965).

d. The 70th Infantry Division organized and improved its newly gained positions. Enemy small arms and artillery fire harassed forward elements throughout the period.

(1) 275th Infantry positions on the division objective were organized for

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defense. Physical contact was maintained with elements of the 63d Infantry Division on its right. Enemy activity during the period consisted mainly of harassing artillery and small arms fire. Normal patrolling was conducted. The line: (Q4864) - (Q4767) - (Q4668) - (Q4467) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 274th Infantry (Company "F" 276th Infantry attached) continued to hold its positions on the high ground southwest of STIRING-WENDEL (Q4167). Forward positions were harassed by enemy small arms and artillery fire. Reconnaissance patrols captured 10 prisoners. The three battalions from right to left, the 1st, 2d, and 3d held the line: (Q4467) - (Q4366) - (Q4267) - (Q4065). Company "F" 276th Infantry was in reserve near (Q4365).

(3) The 276th Infantry (less Company "F") reorganized its forces. Defensive positions were improved without enemy interference. The line: (Q4065) - (Q3966) - (Q3665) - was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and Company "G" on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of COCHEREN (Q3661).

e. The 12th Armored Division maintained one combat command on a three hour alert and continued its counterreconnaissance screen in its assigned sector.

(1) At 0800 CCA was released from its three hour alert status. The counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1556) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) inclusive, was maintained.

(2) At 0800 CCB was placed on a three hour alert to repel a probable enemy penetration in the Corps sector west of the SARRE River. The counterreconnaissance screen from NARBESFONTAINE (Q1261) to BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1556) was maintained. Training was continued at BAMBIDERSTROFF.

(3) CCR continued its training program near ZIMING (Q1559).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River, inclusive.

f. The 2d French Armored Division maintained its counterreconnaissance screen with one combat command. Training continued in assembly areas.

(1) CCR continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCL continued to train in the MITTERSHEIM area (Q4129).

(3) CCD continued to train in the VERCAVILLE (Q2726) area.

(4) CCV continued to train in the HERBY (Q0845) area.

g. The 101st Cavalry Group (165th Engineer Battalion attached) maintained and improved its sector. Patrols probed the Group front without making close contact with the enemy.

(1) The 165th Engineer Battalion maintained and improved its defensive positions. Routine patrolling continued along the line: (Q3665) - (Q3369).

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(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained and improved its positions. Heavy enemy mortar fire caused a number of casualties, particularly in forward areas. No changes were made in positions along the line: (Q3369) - (Q3174).

(3) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in Group reserve continued to train near (Q5264).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group, in Corps reserve, continued to train near MERLEBACH (Q3261). The Group was directed during the afternoon to be prepared to move on six hours notice on or about 27 February to relieve CCR 2d French Armored Division in the vicinity of WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131) with the mission of establishing and maintaining a counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE. (10)

i. XV Corps Artillery fired 33 counterbattery, 50 observed, and 47 unobserved missions on enemy targets along the Corps front.

j. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery expended 242 rounds on 14 missions in fire artillery roles. Three radar stations continued ground search northeast of SARREGUEMINES (Q5157), south of NEUALTHEIM (Q6763), and west of VOLMUNSTER (Q7258) with excellent results.

k. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road and bridge maintenance. Assistance was given the divisions in the preparation of defensive positions. The airstrip near (Q4927) was completed.

l. XII Tactical Air Force flew 192 sorties in support of XV Corps; 120 of which were in direct support of the divisions. ESCHRINGEN (Q5466) was strafed and attacked with bombs and rockets by 12 aircraft in support of the 63d Infantry Division. Forty-eight aircraft strafed and attacked with bombs and rockets the strong points at (Q4768), SHOENECK (Q4169), (Q398667), and bombed the water tower OP at (Q4168) in support of the 70th Infantry Division. Hostile installations and troops at GIESLAUTERN (Q3472), Hostenbach (Q3374), (Q346720), (Q318730), and (Q347728) were bombed and strafed in support of the 101st Cavalry Group.

m. Fifty-six prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: Corps troops captured 3, the 44th Infantry Division 8, the 63d Infantry Division 26, the 70th Infantry Division 18, and the 100th Infantry Division 1.

26. 26 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued its defensive mission. The enemy attitude remained passive except in the left portion of the sector where several local attacks met with little success. Hostile artillery fire was again primarily limited to small concentrations along the Corps front, though several large concentrations were received in the 70th Infantry Division sector.

Operations Instructions 128 XV Corps, dated 2000 26 February, directed the 106th Cavalry Group to move from the vicinity of MERLEBACH (Q3261) to the vicinity of WEYER (Q5728) on 28 February and to relieve elements of CCR 2d French Armored Division of and maintain counterreconnaissance mission east of the SARRE River not later than 0800, 28 February. (17)

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a. The 100th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions. Only light contact was established with the enemy. Hostile artillery fire was moderate sporadic concentrations fell on front line positions, while roads in the rear areas were harassed.

(1) The 398th Infantry (3d Battalion 254th Infantry attached) continued to improve its front line and secondary defensive positions. The front lines were aggressively patrolled throughout the night. Scattered artillery and mortar fire fell on forward elements throughout the period. The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539). The 3d Battalion 254th Infantry remained in reserve at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

(2) Positions of the 399th Infantry were maintained and improved. Machine gun fire on enemy positions near FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551) provoked little reaction from enemy artillery and mortars. Upon relief by the 3d Battalion at 2155, the 2d Battalion moved to SIERSTHAL (Q7149). The 1st Battalion was in position along the line: (Q7547) - (Q7349) and the 3d Battalion held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7551) - (Q7452).

(3) No changes were made in the disposition of units of the 397th Infantry on a quiet front. Moderate artillery and rocket fire was received throughout the period. The line: (Q7452) - (Q7250) - (Q7055) was held with Company "G" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. Regiments of the 44th Infantry Division improved their defensive position of the previous period. Several raids during the period were successfully completed. Front line positions were harassed by light caliber hostile artillery fire.

(1) The 324th Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions. Elements of the 1st Battalion raided enemy positions on the southwest edge of EPPINGURBACH (Q6957). Sporadic artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the period. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6655). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at BETT-VILLER (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry maintained and improved its positions. Upon relief by the 3d Battalion in position the 1st Battalion moved to the vicinity of GROS REDERCHING (Q6252) and closed at 2200. A raiding party of the 3d Battalion killed or wounded approximately 8 enemy occupying dug-in positions near (Q6457). The line: (Q6655) - (Q6455) - (Q6456) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(3) The 114th Infantry improved its defensive positions. Aggressive patrolling was continued. The line: (Q6355) - (Q6155) - (Q6055) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at WOELFLING (Q5954).

c. No changes in dispositions were made in the 63d Infantry Division sector with the exception of minor company reliefs. Organization and improvement of positions continued. Intermittent harassing hostile artillery fire was received along the front lines.

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(1) The 255th Infantry improved its defensive positions and patrolled its front. The three battalions abreast held the line: (Q6056) - (Q5955) - (Q5058) - (Q5559) - (Q5459) with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left.

(2) The 254th Infantry (3d Battalion attached to the 100th Infantry Division) maintained its positions along a quiet front. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q5459) - (Q5360) - (Q5361) - (Q5362).

(3) The 253d Infantry maintained and improved its positions without making close contact with the enemy. Routine patrolling continued. The 3d, 2d, and 1st Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q5362) - (Q5364) - (Q5065) - (Q4965).

d. The 70th Infantry Division maintained its positions and repulsed local enemy attacks in the center portion of the sector. Several large concentrations of enemy artillery fire fell along the front: SPICHEREN (Q4466) and FORBACH (Q4069) received harassing fire.

(1) The 275th Infantry organized and secured positions on the division objective. Enemy activity was confined to harassing small arms and artillery fire. The 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q4965) - (Q4768) - (Q4467).

(2) The 274th Infantry (Co F 276th Inf attached) repulsed light enemy attacks consisting of unsupported infantry which occurred throughout the day. Company "F" 276th Infantry was employed at 1140 to strengthen front line units. At 1440 the enemy reoccupied a bunker near (Q4166) by infiltration which necessitated a slight withdrawal by friendly troops from exposed positions in that vicinity. At the close of the period fighting to clear up small pockets of enemy infantry was still in progress in the woods southeast of STIRING-WENDEL (Q4167) with the line: (Q4467) - (Q4367) - (Q4267) - (Q4065) held by the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion and Company "F" 276th Infantry in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(3) The 276th Infantry (less Company "F") maintained its positions in FORBACH. Patrols kept close contact with adjacent units. The line: (Q4065) - (Q3965) - (Q3865) - (Q3565) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and Company "G" on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at COCHEREN (Q3661).

e. The 12th Armored Division maintained one combat command on a three hour alert and continued its counterreconnaissance screen in its assigned sector.

(1) CCA maintained its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1556) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) inclusive. Training continued in the vicinity of LONGEVILLE les ST AVOID (Q1958).

(2) At 0800 CCB was released from its three hour alert status. The counterreconnaissance screen from NARBEEFONTAINE (Q1261) to BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1556) was maintained. Training continued at BAMBIDERSTROFF.

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(3) At 0800 CCR was placed on a three hour alert to repel a probable enemy penetration in the Corps sector and west of the SAPPRE River. Training continued at ZILMING (01559).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River, inclusive.

f. The 2d French Armored Division maintained with one combat command its counterreconnaissance screen in its assigned sector. Training continued in assembly areas.

(1) CCR continued the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SAREE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

(2) CCL continued to train in the MITTERSHEIM (04122) area.

(3) CCD continued to train in the VERGAVILLE (02726) area.

(4) CCV continued to train in the HERNY (00845) area.

g. The 101st Cavalry Group (165th Engineer Battalion attached) maintained and improved its defensive positions along a quiet front.

(1) The 165th Engineer Battalion maintained its positions along the line: (03565) - (03367) - (03368).

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron improved its positions along the line: (03368) - (03174).

(3) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, in Group reserve, continued training near (Q5264).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group, in Corps reserve, continued its motor maintenance and limited training program near MERLEBACH (Q3361).

i. XV Corps Artillery fired 34 counterbattery, 31 observed, and 44 unobserved missions on enemy targets along the Corps front. Twenty-one prepared harassing missions were fired during the night from FORBACH (Q4069) to SARREBRUCKEN (Q4671).

j. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road and bridge maintenance. Mines were removed from BLIESBRUCKEN WOODS (Q3856).

k. No missions were flown in support of XV Corps by the XII Tactical Air Force because of adverse weather conditions.

1. Eighteen prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: the 63d Infantry Division captured 3, the 70th Infantry Division 14, and the 100th Infantry Division 1.

27. 27 FEBRUARY, 1945:

XV Corps continued its defensive mission. Enemy activity consisted of several

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light attacks in the left portion of the Corps sector all of which were repulsed. Hostile artillery continued its harassing program with moderate concentrations falling on forward positions and towns along the Corps front.

A Seventh Army Movement Order was received detaching the 2d French Armored Division from XV Corps and directing it to move to an assembly area south of Paris with the least possible delay. (18)

a. The 100th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions on a quiet front. Enemy artillery fire was concentrated mainly on the front lines in the left portion of the division sector with a few scattered rounds falling along the remainder of the front.

(1) The 398th Infantry (3d Battalion 254th Infantry attached) improved its front line positions. Active patrolling continued. At 2100 the 3d Battalion 254th Infantry commenced movement to the 63d Infantry Division sector and prior to 2400 closed in the vicinity of NEUNKIRCH (Q5358) at which time it passed to the control of the Commanding General, 63d Infantry Division, as directed in Operations Instructions 127, XV Corps, dated 25 February. The 2d, 1st and 3d Battalions, 398th Infantry, from right to left held the line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539).

(2) The 399th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Harassing artillery and sniper fire was placed on the enemy to the front of the regimental sector. Sporadic hostile artillery fire was reported on 1st Battalion positions along the line: (Q7547) - (Q7349). The 3d Battalion held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7551) - (Q7452) and the 2d Battalion was in reserve at SIERSTHAL (Q7149).

(3) The 397th Infantry defended along its front with all units engaged in consolidating and improving their defensive positions. Moderate enemy artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the sector. The line: (Q7452) - (Q7250) - (Q7055) was held with Company "G" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions. The enemy attitude remained passive with no indication of contemplated aggressive action. Roads and trails in the forward areas were harassed by hostile artillery fire.

(1) No changes were made in the dispositions of units on the 324th Infantry front. Enemy artillery and mortar fire continued to be sporadic with a slight increase in the left portion of the sector. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6655). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions. Sporadic hostile artillery and mortar fire was received. The line: (Q6655) - (Q6455) - (Q6356) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at GROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

(3) The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Enemy positions were harassed by sniper fire. At 1830 the 2d Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion 255th Infantry 63d Infantry Division in position without incident. Moderate

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enemy artillery fire fell on positions in the right portion of the sector. The 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6356) - (Q6156) - (Q6056) - (Q5957).

c. The 63d Infantry Division continued to improve its defensive positions. Three enemy local attacks were repulsed without loss of ground. Moderate enemy artillery fire fell on forward areas.

(1) Positions of the 255th Infantry were improved. At 0530 an attack by about 35 enemy infantrymen near (Q5857) was repulsed by artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. The relief of the 3d Battalion by elements of the 114th Infantry was completed at 2105 and at the close of the period the 3d Battalion closed into reserve positions near (Q5256). The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q5957) - (Q5659) - (Q5560) - (Q5460).

(2) The 254th Infantry maintained its defensive positions along a quiet front. The 3d Battalion, released from attachment to the 100th Infantry Division, closed in NEUNKIRCH (Q5358) as division reserve prior to the close of the period. The line: (Q5459) - (Q5360) - (Q5361) - (Q5362) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left.

(3) The 253d Infantry successfully defended its positions against two enemy attacks. At 0600 approximately 20 enemy infantry were repulsed by small arms and automatic weapons fire near (Q5065). A second attack at 0830 by approximately 70 enemy infantry supported by 3 self-propelled guns was repulsed by artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. 3d, 2d, and 1st Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q5362) - (Q5364) - (Q5065) - (Q4965).

d. The 70th Infantry Division remained in its defensive positions of the previous period. The enemy harassed front line positions with small arms and automatic weapons fire. Hostile artillery fire strongly shelled FORBACH (Q3965) and was intermittent along the remainder of the front.

(1) Positions of the 275th Infantry were maintained and improved without incident. Enemy activity was slight. The 2d, 1st and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q4965) - (Q4768) - (Q4467).

(2) The 274th Infantry (Company "F" 276th Infantry attached) improved its positions and organized the high ground southeast of STIRING-WENDEL (Q4167). Enemy activity during the period consisted principally of intermittent small arms and artillery fire. The line: (Q4467) - (Q4367) - (Q4267) - (Q4065) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion and Company "F" 276th Infantry in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(3) The 276th Infantry (less Company "F") improved its positions in FORBACH (Q3965). Several enemy patrols were observed, but no close contact was established. Hostile artillery fire was intense during the night, but during the hours of daylight only sporadic rounds were received. The 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and Company "G" on the left held the line: (Q4065) - (Q3965) - (Q3865) - (Q3565). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was at COCHEREN (Q3661).

e. The 12th Armored Division maintained one combat command on a three hour alert and continued its counterreconnaissance screen in its assigned sector.

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(1) At 0800 CCA was placed on a three hour alert status to repel a probable enemy penetration in the Corps sector. The counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and west of the SARRE River from BALBIDERSTROFF (Q1556) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352), inclusive was continued. Units not engaged in these activities trained at LONGEVILLE les ST AVOLD (Q1958).

(2) CCB maintained its counterreconnaissance screen from MATTENHUTTEN (Q1261) to BALBIDERSTROFF (Q1556). Training continued at BALBIDERSTROFF.

(3) At 0800 CCR was released from its 3 hour alert status. Training continued at ZIMMUNG (Q1559).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River, inclusive.

f. Elements from the 2d French Armored Division withdrew counterreconnaissance east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE. Training continued in assembly areas.

(1) CCR withdrew elements from its counterreconnaissance screen and assembled them in the vicinity of WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131).

(2) CCL continued to train in the MITTERSHEIM (Q4129) area.

(3) CCD continued to train in the VERGAVILLE (Q2726) area.

(4) CCV continued to train in the HERNY (Q0845) area.

g. The 101st Cavalry Group (165th Engineer Battalion attached) occupied and improved its defensive positions a quiet front. Limited patrols were maintained.

(1) The 165th Engineer Battalion maintained its positions along the line: (Q3565) - (Q3367) - (Q3368).

(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its positions along the line: (Q3368) - (Q3174).

(3) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, in Group reserve, continued training near (Q5264).

h. The 106th Cavalry Group, in Corps reserve, continued its program of training and rehabilitation. Troop "C" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron moved to the WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131) area and made preparations for taking over from CCR 2d French Armored Division the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE. Troop "E" 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Troop "E" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron were attached to the 101st Cavalry Group at 1920 to furnish additional assault guns for the defense of the 101st Cavalry Group.

i. XV Corps Artillery fired 23 counterbattery, 17 observed, and 46 unobserved harassing missions during the period on enemy targets in the Corps sector. A program of prepared harassing missions was fired during the night on MOUTERHOUSE

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(Q7942), VOLMUNSTER (Q7258), and BITCHE (Q7750).

j. XV Corps Engineers maintained the roads and bridges in the Corps area. Minefields were laid near (Q5163) and along the line: (Q5262) - (Q5162).

k. Adverse weather conditions made it impracticable for the XII Tactical Air Force to furnish close air support for XV Corps.

l. Forty-one prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period the 12th Armored Division captured 2, the 44th Infantry Division 2, the 63d Infantry Division 25, the 70th Infantry Division 6, and the 100th Infantry Division 6.

28. 28 FEBRUARY 1945:

XV Corps continued to improve its defensive positions. Contact with the enemy was limited to patrol clashes. Hostile artillery was slightly less active than that of the previous period; forward areas were harassed with light caliber fire. The 63d Infantry Division, the 70th Infantry Division, the 12th Armored Division, and the 101st Cavalry Group passed to the control of XXI Corps at 1200 (See Operations Instructions 127 XV Corps). As a result of the limited objective attacks by XV Corps since 15 February, 104 square kilometers of territory had been seized and 3316 prisoners had been captured.

Field Order 21 XV Corps, dated 1600, 28 February reaffirmed the Corps policy of aggressive defense within its new boundaries: between VI Corps and XV Corps the line: (Q7743) - (Q7240) - (Q6434) - (Q6231) - (Q5929) - (Q5117) inclusive to XV Corps, limiting points near (Q7441) and (Q6937); between XV Corps and XXI Corps the line: (Q6163) - (Q5960) - (Q5855) - (Q5660) - (Q4946) - (Q4743) - (Q3240) - (Q2935) - (Q2234) - (Q2033) - (Q1632) inclusive to XV Corps with the limiting point at BENESTROFF (Q2935).

The boundary between the 44th Infantry Division and the 100th Infantry Division remained the same (Q7061) - (Q7056) - (Q6146) - (Q5740) - (Q4233) with limiting points near (Q6750) and (Q6464). The defensive mission of the divisions continued. The requirement that Divisions retain not less than two Infantry battalions in division reserve at all times, the coordination of defense with units on the flanks, and the preparation of reserve defensive positions remained unaltered.

The 106th Cavalry Group (less Detachments), in Corps reserve, was directed to continue its mission of providing a counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE River and to prepare plans for counterattack east of the SARRE River in the Corps sector. (19)

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. Contact with the enemy remained slight. Moderate harassing enemy artillery fire fell on forward positions.

(1) The 398th Infantry improved its front line positions. Reconnaissance patrols were dispatched. Artillery and mortar fire was used to harass roads in enemy forward areas. The line: (Q7737) - (Q7638) - (Q7539) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

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(2) Front line positions of the 399th Infantry were maintained and improved. Harassing cannon and sniper fire was placed on known enemy positions and in turn, sporadic enemy artillery and small arms fire was received on 3d Battalion positions. The 1st Battalion was in position along the line: (Q7547) - (Q7349); the 3d Battalion held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7551) - (Q7452); and the 2d Battalion was in reserve near SIERSTHAL (Q7149).

(3) The 397th Infantry consolidated and improved its front line positions. Moderate artillery fire was received on positions in the center and left portions of the sector. The line: (Q7452) - (Q7250) - (Q7055) was held with Company "G" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. Regiments of the 44th Infantry Division continued to improve their positions. Patrols were in close contact with the enemy. Moderate hostile artillery fire harassed front line positions and roads.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained its positions. Upon relief by the 2d Battalion in position at 2140 the 3d Battalion closed into regimental reserve positions near BETTVILLER (Q6753) at 2245. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6954) - (Q6856) - (Q6656).

(2) The 71st Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions. Minor company reliefs were accomplished in order to provide a more equitable distribution of responsibilities on the division front. Enemy artillery fire continued sporadic. The line: (Q6656) - (Q6456) - (Q6357) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at GROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

(3) Individual and weapons emplacements in the 114th Infantry sector were improved. Hostile artillery fire continued sporadic except for one heavy concentration at 1750 in the 3d Battalion sector. The 3d, 1st, and 2d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q6357) - (Q6155) - (Q6156) - (Q5957).

c. The 63d Infantry Division continued to maintain its assigned sector on a quiet front. The division passed to the control of XXI Corps at 1200.

(1) The 255th Infantry maintained its defensive positions along the line: (Q5957) - (Q5659) - (Q5560) - (Q5460) with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q5256).

(2) The 254th Infantry maintained its positions with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left along the line: (Q5459) - (Q5360) - (Q5361) - (Q5362). The 3d Battalion was in reserve at NEUNKIRCH (Q5358).

(3) The three battalions of the 253d Infantry were disposed along the line (Q5362) - (Q5364) - (Q5065) - (Q4965) - with the 3d, 2d, and 1st Battalions from right to left.

d. The 70th Infantry Division improved its defensive positions. Aggressive

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patrolling continued along the front. At 1200 the division passed to the control of XXI Corps.

(1) The 275th Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions. Hostile patrols were more active than during the previous period. The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q4965) - (Q4768) - (Q4467).

(2) The 274th Infantry (Company "F" 276th Infantry attached) improved its positions along the high ground southeast of STIRING-WENDEL (Q4167). Aggressive patrolling continued. Scattered enemy small arms and artillery fire was received. The line: (Q4467) - (Q4367) - (Q4267) - (Q4065) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion and Company "F" 276th Infantry in the center, and the 3d Battalion on the left.

(3) Positions of the 276th Infantry in FORBACH (Q3965) were improved. Enemy patrols were active, and hostile sporadic small arms and artillery fire was received on front line positions. The 1st Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and Company "G" on the left held the line: (Q4065) - (Q3965) - (Q3865) - (Q3565). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near COCHEREN (Q3661).

e. The 12th Armored Division continued its counterreconnaissance screen in its assigned sector. The division passed to the control of XXI Corps at 1200.

(1) CCA continued its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and west of the SARRE River from BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1556) to FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352), inclusive. Training continued at LONGEVILLE les ST AVOLD (Q1958).

(2) CCB maintained its counterreconnaissance screen from NARBEBFONTAINE (Q1261) to BAMBIDERSTROFF (Q1556). Training continued at BAMBIDERSTROFF.

(3) CCR continued training at ZIMMING (Q1559).

(4) The 92d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its counterreconnaissance screen west of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE from FOLSCHVILLER (Q2352) to the SARRE River, inclusive.

f. Motor columns of CCD and CCR 2d French Armored Division moved at 0700 and 1000, and upon clearing the Corps sector at 1200 and 1530, respectively, passed from control of XV Corps. (Seventh Army Movement Order received 27 February 1945)

(1) CCL prepared for movement in the MITTERSHEIM (Q4129) area.

(2) CCV prepared for movement in the HERNY (Q0845) area.

g. The 101st Cavalry Group (Troop "E" 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Troop "E" 106th Cavalry Squadron and 165th Engineer Battalion attached) continued to maintain its defensive positions. The Group passed to the control of XXI Corps at 1200.

(1) The 165th Engineer Battalion maintained the line: (Q3565) - (Q3367) - (Q3368).

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(2) The 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron held the line: (Q3368) - (Q3174).

(3) The 101st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, in Group reserve, continued training near (Q5264).

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h. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "E" 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Troop "E" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron) moved at 0800 and closed in an assembly area near WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131) at 1315.

(1) Troop "C" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron established its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE at 0800.

i. XV Corps Artillery fired 17 counterbattery missions during the period. Thirty-two observed and fifty six unobserved harassing missions were fired during the day on enemy targets along the Corps front. During the night prepared harassing missions were fired on ZWEIFRUCKEN (Q7372) and on ammunition dumps near KIRKEL (Q6376).

j. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery fired on two P-47s that were reported to have strafed towns in the 100th Infantry Division sector. Radar search continued in the vicinity of PEPPENKUM (Q6760) and ORIMERSVILLER (Q7059). Plots of vehicles and personnel picked up resulted in 23 field artillery missions.

k. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain the roads and bridges in the Corps area.

l. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with 108 sorties during the period. Supply dumps, motor transport, and marshalling yards were bombed and strafed in the area: PIRMASENS (Q9066) - RAMSTEIN (Q8794) - HOMBERG (Q7180) - SARREBRUCKEN (Q4570). One locomotive, 45 railroad cars, and 10 buildings were claimed destroyed and an additional 30 buildings damaged. Two enemy planes were claimed destroyed.

m. Twenty-four prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 19, and the 100th Infantry Division captured 5.

SECTION III

SUMMARY

1. During the month of February, 1945, XV Corps, continued its mission of aggressive defense; enemy defensive positions were vigorously raided and limited objective attacks were successfully launched to shorten the Corps defensive line.

a. During the first 14 days of the month XV Corps (100th Infantry Division, the 44th Infantry Division (Task Force HARRIS attached), Task Force HERREN, the 10th Armored Division, the 106th Cavalry Group, and attached Corps troops) generally maintained its defensive positions held at the close of January. Defense

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installations were improved and additional front line positions were prepared. Secondary and reserve positions were reconnoitered and partially organized and plans were completed for counterattacks against enemy penetrations in the Corps sector.

b. Commencing 15 February, XV Corps began a limited objective attack designed to rectify and straighten the Corps front line. The initial attack was made by the 44th Infantry Division which succeeded in straightening its front lines as well as capturing RIMLING (Q6555) in the face of strong enemy resistance. The 63d and 70th Infantry Divisions commenced their attack on 17 February, and fought their way through the BRANDENBUSCH WOODS (Q4763) and the HARTWALD (Q4562), and captured LIXING (Q4662), GROEBLIEDERSTROFF (Q4862), OETING (Q4063), ALSTING (Q4565), SPICHEREN (Q4166), BUBINGEN (Q4964), and FORBACH (Q4069) against enemy resistance which varied from light to moderately heavy. The attack was still in progress at the end of February.

c. On 28 February the XXI Corps assumed command of that portion of the XV Corps sector occupied by the 63d and 70th Infantry Divisions and the 101st Cavalry Group.

d. At the close of February 1945, XV Corps, composed of the 100th Infantry Division, the 44th Infantry Division, the 2d French Armored Division, and the 106th Cavalry Group, held defensive positions on a front of 16 kilometers extending along the line: SARREINSBERG (Q7442) - LEMBERG (Q7445) - HOTTVILLER (Q7353) - (Q6856) - (Q6057).

e. XV Corps accomplished its mission of defending successfully its extended sector with the minimum number of troops. In addition, successful limited objective attacks disposed the Corps favorably for future offensive operations.

2. The following communication centers were liberated:

RIMLING	(Q6555)
AUERSMACHIER	(Q5060)
LIXING	(Q4662)
GROEBLIEDERSTROFF	(Q4862)
ETZLING	(Q4364)
SPICHEREN	(Q4466)
BUBINGEN	(Q4964)
BLEESRANSBACH	(Q5363)

3. During the month of February 1945, XV Corps destroyed 39 enemy tanks and 40 self-propelled guns.

4. XV Corps was opposed at various times during the month by units of the 2d Mountain Division, the 6th SS Mountain Division, the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, the 19th Infantry Division, the 245th Infantry Division, the 257th Infantry Division, the 347th Infantry Division, the 559th Infantry Division, and the 719th Infantry Division. The aggregate strength of these units was cut between 1 February and 28 February from an estimated 13,625 to 10,175 because of casualties inflicted by XV Corps. A total of 3,157 prisoners was captured by the Corps during the month.

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Wade H. Haislip

WADE H. HAISLIP,
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

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5 Annexes:

- 1 - Annex 1 (G-1 Data and Statistics)
- 2 - Annex 2 (G-2 Enemy Order of Battle)
- 3 - Annex 3 (Chief of Staff, General)
- 4 - Annex 4 (G-4 Supply, Transportation,
Evacuation)
- 5 - Annex 5 (G-5 (Civil Affairs) Historical
Data)

2 Incls:

- 1 - Footnotes to Summary of Operations,
XV Corps, 1 February - 28 February 1945.
- 2 - G-2 Journal and Journal File, Nos. 1
thru 28, inclusive, February 1945.

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FOOTNOTES

<u>Footnote Number</u>	<u>February Journal Date</u>	<u>D E S C R I P T I O N</u>
2	2	Operations Instructions No. 107 XV Corps, dated 2 February.
3	3	Seventh Army Attachment Order dated 1 February.
3	4	Operations Instructions No. 109 XV Corps, dated 4 February.
4	5	Operations Instructions No. 110 XV Corps, dated 5 February.
5	5	Seventh Army Directive dated 4 February.
6	7	Operations Instructions No. 112 XV Corps, dated 7 February.
7	8	Operations Instructions No. 114 XV Corps, dated 8 February.
8	8	Operations Instructions No. 115 XV Corps, dated 8 February.
9	9	Operations Instructions No. 116 XV Corps, dated 9 February.
10	10	Operations Instructions No. 117 XV Corps, dated 10 February.
11	12	Operations Instructions No. 119 XV Corps, dated 12 February.
12	13	Field Order No. 20 XV Corps, dated 13 February.
13	19	Operations Instructions No. 123 XV Corps, dated 19 February.
14	23	Operations Instructions No. 124 XV Corps, dated 23 February.
15	24	Telephone message from Commanding General Seventh Army to Commanding General XV Corps.
16	25	Operations Instructions No. 127 XV Corps, dated 25 February.

Incl. No. 1 to Ltr, Hq XV Corps,
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D E S C R I P T I O N

17	26	Operations Instructions No. 128 XV Corps, dated 26 February.
18	27	Seventh Army Movement Order.
19	28	Field Order No. 21, XV Corps, dated 28 February.

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R E S T R I C T E D
HEADQUARTERS
XV CORPS, UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

AG 314.7 (G)

APC 436 US Army
13 June 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Report After.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, Seventh Army).

In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, Change 3, and Memorandum Hq Seventh Army, file AG 314.7 Misc, dated 7 August 1944, the following report covering the operations of XV Corps during the period 1 March - 31 March 1945, both dates inclusive, is submitted.

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

1. At the beginning of March 1945, XV Corps was composed of the 100th Infantry Division, the 44th Infantry Division, the 106th Cavalry Group, and attached Corps troops. The Corps was executing its mission of aggressive defense prescribed in Field Order 15 XV Corps, dated 23 December 1944.

2. The 100th Infantry Division on the right and the 44th Infantry Division, covering a front of 31 kilometers, were disposed along the general line: (Q6057) - (Q6856) - HOTTVILLE (Q7353) - LEMBERG (Q7445) - SARRIENSBERG (Q7442), utilizing the most desirable defensive terrain features and portions of the MAGINOT LINE defense system.

SECTION II

NARRATIVE

1. 1 MARCH 1945.

The XV Corps front remained static during the period. Hostile artillery fire was desultory and harassing in nature. Front line positions, towns, and roads in the forward areas received the major portion of the fire.

Note 1: Except where specifically indicated by footnotes, all information contained in this report is based upon the XV Corps Periodic Reports for March 1945.

Note 2: All hours are "A" hours (British Summer Time).

Note 3: All map references are to map GSGS 4416, Scale 1/100,000, France & Germany.

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a. The 100th Infantry Division maintained its defensive dispositions. The enemy's passive attitude remained unchanged; his patrols were not aggressive and his artillery fire was sporadic. PETIT REDERCHING (Q6850) and the road northeast to the vicinity of (Q7052) received moderately strong concentrations of hostile artillery fire; the remainder of the sector received only moderate harassing fire.

(1) Slight adjustments were made to improve the defensive dispositions of the 398th Infantry. Patrols continued to reconnoiter enemy positions. Only minor company reliefs occurred during the day. The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7342) - (Q7441) - (Q7344) - (Q7446) (Q7447).

(2) The 399th Infantry front line positions were maintained and improved. Enemy installations to the immediate front were harassed with artillery and sniper fire. Sporadic hostile artillery and sniper fire fell on forward areas. The 1st Battalion held positions on the right portion of the sector along the line: (Q7447) - (Q7248) - (Q7349), and the 3d Battalion defended the left portion of the sector on the line: (Q7349) - (Q7450) - (Q7351). The 2d Battalion remained in reserve at SIERSTHAL (Q7149).

(3) Units of the 397th Infantry improved their front line positions. Aggressive patrolling by all battalions failed to provoke any reaction from the enemy. At 1900 Company "F" relieved Company "G" in position. Moderate light caliber hostile artillery fire fell throughout the period. The line: (Q7352) - (Q7353) - (Q7155) - (Q6855) was held with Company "F" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near HOIBACH (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions on a quiet front. Offensive activity was limited to one raid in the left portion of the division sector. Towns and roads in forward areas received light concentrations of hostile fire throughout the latter half of the period.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained and improved its defensive positions. Enemy artillery and mortar fire continued sporadic. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6956) - (Q6857) - (Q6656) - (Q6646). The 3d Battalion was in reserve at BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) No change was made in the dispositions of units of the 71st Infantry. Front line positions were improved. Intermittent hostile artillery and mortar fire fell on forward areas. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6656) - (Q6456) - (Q6356). The 1st Battalion was in reserve at GROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

(3) The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. At 1505 elements of the 1st Battalion relieved elements of the 3d Battalion in position. Upon relief the 3d Battalion closed at 1530 in reserve positions near WOELFLING (Q5954). The line: (Q6356) - (Q5956) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left.

c. Motor columns of CCV and Headquarters 2d French Armored Division moved at 0700 and 1200 and passed from the control of XV Corps upon clearing the Corps sector at 1010 and 1730 respectively. Six trains of equipment from

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CCL, CCD, and CCV departed from SARREBOURG at 1700. The remaining elements of CCL made preparations for movement on the following day.

d. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "E" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Troop "E" 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to the 101st Cavalry Group (XXI Corps)) maintained its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGNOT LINE. Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, detailed as Headquarters guard Sixth Army Group by the Commanding General XV Corps, moved at 0700, closed in the vicinity of VITTEL (Z6818) at 1600, and passed to the control of 6th Army Group. (1). Elements not engaged in these missions continued to train in the vicinity of WEYER (Q5728).

(1) Troop "C" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGNOT LINE.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired 8 counterbattery missions during the period. Twenty-one observed and eleven unobserved harassing missions were fired during the day on enemy targets along the Corps front. Prepared harassing missions were fired during the night in the vicinity of ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7372) and on two ammunition dumps southwest of HOMBURG (Q7180).

f. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery fired five missions in field artillery roles. Radar search in the vicinity of VOLMUNSTER (Q7257) furnished data for seven artillery missions. Searchlights were used to provide illumination for the 44th and 100th Infantry Divisions.

g. XV Corps Engineers completed at 52 foot, one-way, class 40, steel stringer bridge near (Q5949) which replaced a 60 foot DS Bailey Bridge. The road and bridge maintenance program in the Corps sector continued.

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew no close support missions for XV Corps because of priority given the air offensive against the enemy transportation system. A total of 405 sorties were flown in support of Seventh Army as follows: supply and ammunition dumps were bombed and strafed near (Q9291), (Q9271), (Q6882), (Q6782), (R2968) and (Q3284); railroad rolling stock was bombed and strafed near (Q9074), (Q6875), (Q7080), (Q6583), (Q6578), and (Q7887); and two 20mm anti-aircraft guns were bombed and strafed near (Q6677) and (Q6479).

i. Nine prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period. The 44th Infantry Division captured 6 and the 100th Infantry Division 3.

2. 2 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued its defensive mission against light enemy opposition. Hostile artillery was quiet until noon at which time intermittent fire began to fall on front line elements and installations; this fire continued for the remainder of the period.

Operations Instructions 131 XV Corps, dated 2 March 1945, rescinded all orders and instructions requiring the organization and construction of defensive positions to the rear of forward positions.

a. The 100th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions on a quiet front. Enemy artillery fire continued to be moderate; roads and positions in forward areas received sporadic fire.

(1) The 398th Infantry continued to improve its front line and secondary positions. Normal patrolling of the regimental front continued. Scattered hostile mortar and artillery fire fell on forward positions. The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7342) - (Q7444) - (Q7344) - (Q7446) - (Q7447).

(2) The only activity in the sector of the 399th Infantry consisted of harassing small arms and sniper fire upon known enemy positions. Sporadic enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire was received along front line positions. Defensive positions of the previous period were maintained with the 1st Battalion disposed along the line: (Q7447) - (Q7243) - (Q7349), and 3d Battalion in positions along the line: (Q7349) - (Q7450) - (Q7351), and the 2d Battalion in reserve at SIERSTHAL (Q7149).

(3) No changes were made in the defensive dispositions of the 397th Infantry. Moderate light caliber mortar and artillery fire fell on front line positions. Company "F", the 3d, and 1st Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7352) - (Q7353) - (Q7155) - (Q6855). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. Defensive positions of the 44th Infantry Division were improved and strengthened. Roads and installations in forward areas received sporadic hostile artillery fire.

(1) The 324th Infantry continued to maintain and improve its front line positions without change in the location of its units. Intermittent hostile artillery and mortar fire was received. The 1st Battalion on the right and 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6956) - (Q6857) - (Q6656) - (Q6646). The 3d Battalion remained in reserve at BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry maintained its defensive positions without change on a quiet front. Sporadic enemy mortar and artillery fire was received. The line: (Q6656) - (Q6456) - (Q6356) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at GROS REDECHING (Q6252).

(3) The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Individual and weapons emplacements were strengthened and improved. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was sporadic. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6356) - (Q5956). The 3d Battalion was in reserve positions at WOELFLING (Q5954).

c. The 2d French Armored Division continued its movement from the XV Corps sector. CCL cleared the Corps sector at 1115. The Tank Destroyer Battalion and the Engineer Battalion cleared at 1350.

d. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "E" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Troop "E" 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to the 101st Cavalry Group (XXI Corps) and Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance

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Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group), in Corps reserve, continued its maintenance and training program in the vicinity of WEYER (Q5728). Troop "C" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGNOT LINE.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired 15 counterbattery missions during the period. During the day 17 observed and 10 unobserved missions were fired on enemy troops and vehicles along the Corps front. During the night one prepared harassing mission was fired on freight cars near ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7272).

f. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery reported no enemy aircraft over the Corps sector. Searchlights were used in the vicinity of FRONING (Q6557) to support the 71st Infantry. Two radar stations continued ground search in the area: PEPPENKUM (Q6760) - ERCHLING - BEPINGORBAH (Q6957) - VOLKUNSTER (Q7258). Activity picked up in NCUSSEVILLER (Q7356) was fired on by artillery. Twenty-five field artillery missions were fired with good results.

g. XV Corps Engineers completed permanent bridges near (Q4034), (Q3732) and (Q5949). Roads and bridges in the Corps sector were maintained.

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 514 sorties in support of XV Corps, but no close support missions were flown due to lack of targets. Aircraft strafed and attacked with bombs and rockets the following targets: supply and ammunition dumps near (Q7473), (Q7080), (Q6468), (Q4479), and (Q8873); road and rail traffic in the Corps zone with excellent results; and a railroad gun near (R1269) which was destroyed. One train with five ammunition cars, thirty pullman cars, and 15 flatcars carrying tanks was strafed and attacked with bombs and rockets.

i. Two prisoners were captured by the 100th Infantry Division in the Corps sector during the period.

3. 3 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued to maintain its positions along a quiet front. Hostile artillery fire continued on a limited scale. Several large concentrations fell on towns in the Corps sector; harassing fires fell on forward positions.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission with only intermittent hostile artillery fire falling on front line units.

(1) The 398th Infantry improved its positions throughout the period without incident. Patrolling continued. The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7447) - (Q7348) - (Q7450) - (Q7351).

(2) The 399th Infantry improved its forward and reserve positions. Harassing sniper and small arms fire was placed on known enemy positions. Sporadic enemy mortar and artillery fire fell throughout the period. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7348) - (Q7450) - (Q7351). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at SIERSTHAL (Q7149).

(3) Units of the 397th Infantry adjusted and improved their defensive positions. Light 88mm and 105mm fire was received on 1st and 2d Battalion positions. Company "F", the 3d, and 1st Battalions from right to left held the

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line: (Q7351) - (Q7353) - (Q7254) - (Q6955). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. Regiments of the 44th Infantry Division maintained and improved their defensive positions and patrolled to the front. Harassing hostile artillery fire fell on forward areas. GUIRING (Q6552) and RIELING (Q6555) received concentrations during the day.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained its positions of the previous period. Reconnaissance patrols were dispatched during the day. Enemy mortar and artillery fire continued sporadic. The line: (Q6955) - (Q6857) - (Q6656) - (Q6646) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion was in reserve at BETVILLER (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions. At 1100 a detachment consisting of fourteen men of the 2d Battalion moved forward to establish an OPIR. The detachment encountered strong enemy machine gun and small arms fire from the vicinity of (Q6456), (Q6556), and (Q6656) which forced it to withdraw under cover of friendly artillery fire. Patrols directed mortar and artillery fire on enemy infantry and vehicles in the vicinity of (Q6556). Increased enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on front line troops throughout the period. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion began the relief of the 2d Battalion in position. The line: (Q6656) - (Q6455) - (Q6356) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion was in reserve at CROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

(3) The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Additional front line defensive positions were constructed. Normal patrol activity continued. Hostile mortar and artillery fire was sporadic. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6356) - (Q5956). The 3d Battalion was in reserve at WOLFFLING (Q5954).

c. The last division train of the 2d French Armored Division cleared the Corps sector at 1730.

d. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "E" of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Troop "F" of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to the 101st Cavalry Group (XXI Corps) and Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron)) continued its training and maintenance program in the vicinity of WEYER (Q5728). Troop "C" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE River.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired 15 counterbattery, 21 observed, and 14 unobserved missions on enemy targets during the period. A moderate harassing program was fired on the road net in the vicinity of HOLBACH (Q7355) and ALTHEIM (Q6063) during the night.

f. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery engaged four enemy-piloted P-47s in the vicinity of (Q7051), (Q6241), and (Q6950). Searchlights were used to illuminate targets for the 44th and 100th Infantry Divisions during the night. Radar ground search directed 30 artillery missions in the area south of VOLMUNSTER (Q7258) and MEDELSHEIM (Q6560).

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g. XIII Tactical Air Force flew no missions in close support of XV Corps. In the Seventh Army sector marshalling yards, rolling stock, and supply dumps were attacked with excellent results. Aircraft attacked with rockets, and bombed and strafed about 150-200 scattered motor transport, vans, busses, and 10 tanks in the vicinity of (R1432) with good results. Troop concentrations near (R4624) were bombed and strafed. Medium bombers bombed SARRBRUCKEN (Q4671).

h. Three prisoners were captured in the Corps sector--all by the 100th Infantry Division.

4. 4 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued its defensive mission. Contact with the enemy was limited to patrol clashes. Hostile artillery fire was moderate with the bulk of it falling in the right portion of the Corps sector.

a. The 100th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions along a quiet front. Hostile artillery placed moderate concentrations in GOETZENBRUCK (Q7442), SARRIENSBERG (Q7441), and SIERSSTHAL (Q7149).

(1) The 398th Infantry maintained and improved its defensive positions. Combat and reconnaissance patrols probed enemy positions during the period. Enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on front line positions. The 2d, 1st and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7447) - (Q7348).

(2) No changes were made in the defensive dispositions of the 399th Infantry. Front line units engaged in aggressive patrolling. Sporadic enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on 3d Battalion positions. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7348) - (Q7450) - (Q7351). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at SIERSSTHAL (Q7149).

(3) The 397th Infantry improved its front line positions. Combat and reconnaissance patrols were active along the regimental front. Harassing enemy machine gun fire was received on 3d Battalion positions. The line: (Q7351) - (Q7353) - (Q7254) - (Q6955) was held with Company "F" on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division maintained and improved its defensive positions of the previous period. Hostile artillery fire was moderate.

(1) The 324th Infantry improved its positions. Normal patrolling continued. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6956) - (Q6857) - (Q6656) - (Q6646). The 3d Battalion was in reserve at BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) Hostile artillery and mortar fire which fell on the defensive positions of the 71st Infantry was extremely light. The 2d Battalion, upon completion of its relief by the 1st Battalion, closed into reserve positions at 0140 in the vicinity of GROS REDERCHING (Q6252). At the close of the period the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6646) - (Q6445) - (Q6356).

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(3) Defensive positions of the 114th Infantry were improved. At 1900 a 2d Battalion raiding party killed two enemy and destroyed two automatic weapons positions near (Q5957). The line: (Q6356) - (Q5956) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion was in reserve at WOELFELING (Q5954).

c. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "E" of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Troop "E" 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to the 101st Cavalry Group (XII Corps) and Troop "B" of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group) remained in Corps reserve. Training and maintenance of vehicles and equipment continued in the vicinity of WEYER (Q5728). Troop "C" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the counter-reconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE River.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired four counterbattery missions along the Corps front. Six observed and ten unobserved missions were fired for registration and on enemy personnel and vehicles.

e. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road repair and bridge maintenance.

f. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish close support for XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions.

g. Six prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 1 prisoner and the 100th Infantry Division 5.

5. 5 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps maintained its defensive positions along a quiet front. Enemy ground activity continued slight. Hostile harassing artillery fire was directed primarily on OPs along the Corps front.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. Contact with the enemy was limited to patrols in the right portion of the division sector. Hostile artillery fire was moderate.

(1) The 398th Infantry improved its front line positions. Reconnaissance and combat patrols maintained light contact with the enemy. Sporadic enemy mortar and artillery fire fell on front line positions. The 2d, 3d, and 1st Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7447) - (Q7348).

(2) Elements of the 399th Infantry continued to harass the enemy in the vicinity of FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551) with sniper and automatic weapons fire. Sporadic hostile mortar, artillery and small arms fire was received along the front lines. Upon relief by the 2d Battalion in position at 2120 the 1st Battalion moved to reserve positions near LEBACH (Q7249). The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7450) - (Q7351).

(3) No changes were made in the defensive dispositions of the 397th Infantry. Hostile artillery and mortar fire fell throughout the regimental sector. Company "F", the 3d, and 1st Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7351) - (Q7353) - (Q7254) - (Q6955).

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b. The 44th Infantry Division maintained and improved its defensive positions. Enemy mortar and artillery fire was sporadic.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Intermittent enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on front line positions. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6956) - (Q6857) - (Q6656) - (Q6646). The 3d Battalion occupied reserve positions in the vicinity of BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry improved its positions of the previous period. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was moderate throughout the day, with a slight increase in intensity toward the close of the period. The line: (Q6646) - (Q6445) - (Q6356) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at GROS RENDERSCHING (Q6252).

(3) The 114th Infantry improved its positions along a quiet front. Sporadic hostile artillery fire was received. Upon relief by the 3d Battalion in position at 1950, the 2d Battalion closed in the vicinity of WOLLELING (Q5954) at 2050. At the close of the period the line: (Q6356) - (Q5956) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left.

c. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "E" of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Troop "E" of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to the 101st Cavalry Group (XXI Corps) and Troop "B" of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group)) remained in Corps reserve. Training and maintenance of vehicles and equipment continued in the vicinity of WEYER (Q5728). Troop "C" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGNOT LINE and east of the SARRE River.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 8 counterbattery, 19 observed, and 10 unobserved missions on enemy targets along the Corps front.

e. XV Corps Engineers completed a one-way Class 40, 71 foot steel stringer bridge near (Q3134). Road and bridge maintenance within the Corps sector was continued.

f. XII Tactical Air Force flew 60 sorties in support of XV Corps; lacking close support targets the planes continued on to bomb and strafe trains in the ZWENBRUCKEN (Q7272) area.

g. No prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period.

6. 6 MARCH 1945:

XV Corps continued to improve its defensive positions along a quiet front. Installations and towns in forward areas were harassed with moderate hostile artillery fire.

The Commanding General Seventh Army advised the Commanding General XV Corps that advance elements of the 71st Infantry Division would arrive in the Corps sector on 7 May 1945. (3)

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a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission on an inactive front. There was no perceptible change in the enemy's passive attitude. SARREINSBERG (Q7441) received a moderate concentration of hostile artillery fire. Sporadic artillery and mortar fire fell on front line positions.

(1) The 398th Infantry improved its defensive positions of the previous period. Moderate enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on front line positions. The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7447) - (Q7348).

(2) The 399th Infantry improved its front line positions. The 3d Battalion continued to harass enemy positions in the vicinity of FREUDENBERG FARM (Q7551) with sniper and automatic weapons fire. Sporadic enemy artillery fire fell on front line positions. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7343) - (Q7450) - (Q7351). The 1st Battalion was in reserve at LAIBACH (Q7249).

(3) Positions of the 397th Infantry were maintained and improved. Active patrols from the 1st and 2d Battalions failed to make close contact with the enemy. Intermittent artillery and mortar fire fell in the regimental sector. Company "F", the 3d, and 1st Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7351) - (Q7353) - (Q7254) - (Q6955).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued to maintain and improve its defensive positions on a quiet front. Towns and positions in forward areas were harassed by hostile light caliber artillery fire.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. At 2230 a raiding party from the 2d Battalion attacked enemy positions near (Q6757); the raiding party had not returned at the close of the period. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6956) - (Q6857) - (Q6656) - (Q6646). The 3d Battalion was in reserve at BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) No changes were made in the defensive dispositions of the 71st Infantry. Sporadic enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on forward elements throughout the period. Normal patrol activity continued. The line: (Q6646) - (Q6445) - (Q6356) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at GROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

(3) The 114th Infantry maintained its front line positions along a quiet front. Units improved their installations and dispatched routine patrols. The line (Q6356) - (Q5956) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion was in reserve at KÖNIGLING (Q5954).

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c. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "E" of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Troop "E" of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (attached to the 101st Cavalry Group) (XXI Corps) and Troop "B" of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to the Sixth Army Group) remained in Corps reserve. Training and maintenance of vehicles and equipment continued in the vicinity of WEYER (Q5728). Troop "C" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGINOT LINE and east of the SARRE River.

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d. XV Corps Artillery fired 9 counterbattery, 15 observed, and 16 unobserved missions on enemy targets along the entire Corps front.

e. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of bridge construction and road maintenance.

f. XII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish air support for the Corps during the day because of adverse weather conditions.

g. Five prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 2 and the 100th Infantry Division 3.

7. 7 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued its mission of aggressive defense. Hostile artillery fire was moderate; small concentrations of harassing fire fell on minor roads and trails in the forward portion of the Corps sector.

A Field Message dated 1620, 7 March 1945, from Commanding General XV Corps to Commanding General 71st Infantry Division directed that the 71st Infantry Division concentrate in the vicinity of ALTWEILER (Q4537) and prepare for movement on Corps order to relieve elements of the 100th Infantry Division in the MONTEBRONN (Q6844) area. (4).

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission on a quiet front. Hostile artillery fire was moderate.

(1) The 398th Infantry improved its front line positions. Hostile intermittent artillery and mortar fire fell on forward positions. The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7447) - (Q7348).

(2) The 399th Infantry improved its front line positions along a quiet front. Forward elements continued to harass enemy positions with small arms and mortar fire. Sporadic artillery fire was received. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7348) - (Q7450) - (Q7351). The 1st Battalion was in reserve at LALBACH (Q7249).

(3) The 397th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. At 1915 Company "E" relieved Company "F" in position. Hostile mortar fire fell on forward areas. Company "E", the 3d, and 1st Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7351) - (Q7353) - (Q7254) - (Q6955).

b. The 44th Infantry Division maintained and improved its defensive positions. Moderate concentrations of hostile artillery fire were received.

(1) The 324th Infantry continued to maintain its defensive positions of the previous period without incident. Hostile sporadic artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the period. Upon relief by the 3d Battalion at 2340, the 1st Battalion closed into reserve positions at BETTVILLER (Q6753). At the close of the period the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6956) - (Q6857) - (Q6656) - (Q6646).

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(2) The 71st Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Routine patrols were dispatched along the regimental front. Hostile sporadic artillery fire fell within the sector throughout the period. The line: (Q6646) - (Q6445) - (Q6356) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve near GROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

(3) No changes were made in the defensive dispositions of the 114th Infantry. Forward positions received hostile sporadic artillery fire. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6356) - (Q5956). The 2d Battalion was in reserve at WOELING (Q5954).

c. The 106th Cavalry Group (106th and 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons) (less Troop "E" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Troop "E" 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to the 101st Cavalry Group (XXI Corps), and Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group)) remained in Corps reserve. Training and maintenance of vehicles and equipment continued to WEYER (Q5728). Troop "C" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained the counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGNOT LINE and east of the SARTRE River.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 7 counterbattery, 9 observed, and 12 unobserved harassing missions during the day on enemy targets along the Corps front.

e. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery fired 9 missions in field artillery roles during the period. Radar search for ground targets produced good results. Searchlights were used to illuminate the sectors of the 44th and 100th Infantry Divisions.

f. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road and bridge maintenance.

g. Adverse weather conditions made it impracticable for the XII Tactical Air Force to furnish close support missions for XV Corps.

h. Two prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector, both by the 100th Infantry Division.

8. 8 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps maintained its defensive positions without incident. The enemy, while continuing his passive attitude, was nevertheless alert to all attempts to probe his positions. Hostile artillery fire during the period was moderate with the greater part falling in the right portion of the Corps sector.

The advance detachment of the 71st Infantry Division reported to Headquarters, XV Corps.

Operations Instructions 132 XV Corps, dated 1430, 8 March directed the return not later than 0800, 9 March, of various subordinate units of XV Corps that had remained in the XXI Corps sector, in accordance with Field Order 21 XV Corps, dated 28 February. These units remained to assist in the completion of the limited objective attack of former divisions of XV Corps that began on 15 February.

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Operations Instructions 133 XV Corps, dated 2300, 8 March directed, pursuant to oral orders of the Commanding General, Seventh Army, that the 6th Armored Division move without delay to an assembly area in the vicinity of VIC-SUR-SEILLE (Q1121) and that upon arrival at VIC-SUR-SEILLE it was relieved from its previous attachment and attached to XV Corps for operations.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its mission of aggressive defense. Patrols maintained close contact with the enemy. Moderate mortar and nebelwerfer fire fell on forward positions and light enemy artillery fire harassed roads in the forward areas. LEMBURG (Q7445) received intermittent hostile light caliber artillery fire during the period.

(1) The 398th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Routine patrols were dispatched. Hostile moderate artillery fire fell on forward positions. The 2d, 1st and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7447) - (Q7348).

(2) The 399th Infantry maintained and improved its defensive positions. Forward elements continued to place harassing automatic weapons and small arms fire on known enemy positions. Hostile sporadic artillery fire fell on forward elements. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7348) - (Q7450) - (Q7351). The 1st Battalion was in reserve at LAMBACH (Q7249).

(3) The 397th Infantry maintained its front line positions. Moderate mortar fire fell on the 3d Battalion positions. Company "E", the 3d, and 1st Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7351) - (Q7353) - (Q7254) - (Q6955). The remainder of the 2d Battalion remained in reserve at HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued to improve its defensive positions. Enemy mortar and artillery fire was moderate and sporadic.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained its defensive positions without direct close contact with the enemy. Hostile artillery and mortar fire was sporadic. The line: (Q6956) - (Q6857) - (Q6656) - (Q6646) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion remained in reserve at BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry maintained defensive positions of the previous period. Upon relief at 2020 in position by the 2d Battalion, the 3d Battalion closed at 2225 in reserve positions in the vicinity of GEOS REDERCHING (Q6252). The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6646) - (Q6445) - (Q6356).

(3) No change was made in the defensive dispositions of the 114th Infantry. An attempt at 1940 to raid enemy positions near (Q5957) was thwarted by the aggressive reaction of an alert enemy in the form of mortar and automatic weapons fire. The line: (Q6336) - (Q5956) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve positions near KONTZLING (Q5954).

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c. The 106th Cavalry Group (106th and 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons) (less Troop "E" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Troop "E" 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to the 101st Cavalry Group XXI Corps and Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance attached to Sixth Army Group) remained in Corps reserve. Training and maintenance of vehicles and equipment continued at WEYER (Q5728). Troop "C" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron maintained its counterreconnaissance screen south of the MAGNOT LINE and east of the SARRE River.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 1 counterbattery, 4 observed, and 6 unobserved harassing missions on enemy targets along the Corps front.

e. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery fired a total of 5 missions in field artillery roles. Searchlights were used to illuminate targets for the front line divisions. Twelve field artillery missions were fired as a result of Radar plots.

f. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain the roads and bridges in the Corps area.

g. XIII Tactical Air Force was unable to furnish close support for XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions.

h. Sixteen prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 12 and the 100th Infantry Division 4.

9. 9 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued to maintain its defensive positions of the previous period. The enemy reacted vigorously to all attempts by our patrols to probe his positions. Hostile artillery fire showed a marked increase over that of the previous period with the bulk of the fire falling in the right portion of the Corps sector. OPs and front line positions were harassed.

The advance detachment of the 6th Armored Division reported to the Commanding General XV Corps.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued to maintain its front line positions. Active patrolling was continued during the period. Hostile artillery was more active than during the preceding day. Enemy self-propelled guns were active near HOTTVILLER (Q7253) and forward positions, roads, and trails were harassed during the day.

(1) The 398th Infantry continued its defensive mission without change in front line dispositions. Reconnaissance patrols probed enemy positions. Hostile artillery and heavy caliber mortar fire fell in the forward areas. The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line. (Q7441) - (Q7447) - (Q7348).

(2) Aggressive patrols operated to the front of the 399th Infantry. Early in the period reconnaissance patrols observed little enemy activity, but after daylight all patrols encountered strong opposition from an alert enemy. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7348) - (Q7450) - (Q7351). The 1st Battalion was in reserve near LAMBACH (Q7249).

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(3) The 397th Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions. Normal patrol activity was continued. Moderate artillery and mortar fire on all forward positions was received. Company E of the 3d and 1st Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7351) - (Q7355) - (Q7254) - (Q6955). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division improved its defensive positions. Hostile artillery fire harassed OPs near (Q7053) and front line positions near Le BRUCKENBUSH Wood (Q6756).

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained its defensive positions of the previous period. Normal patrol activity continued. Hostile sporadic artillery and mortar fire fell on forward positions. The line: (Q5956) - (Q6857) - (Q6656) - (Q6646) was held with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion remained in reserve near BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) No change was made in the defensive positions of the 71st Infantry. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was sporadic. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6646) - (Q6445) - (Q6356). The 3d Battalion remained in reserve positions at GROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

(3) The 114th Infantry maintained and improved its defensive positions. Front line units harassed known enemy positions with .50 caliber machine gun fire. Sporadic enemy artillery and mortar fire was received. The line: (Q6356) - (Q5956) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve at WOLFFLING (Q5954).

c. The 71st Infantry Division began closing in the XV Corps sector.

(1) The 5th CT closed into as assembly area in the vicinity of ALTWEILER (Q4537) by 1000.

d. The 106th Cavalry Group (106th and 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons) (less Troop B 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group), in Corps reserve, continued its training program. Troop E of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Troop E of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron were released from attachment to XXI Corps and reverted to unit control and 1600 in the vicinity of WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q5131). Troop C maintained its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired 21 counterbattery, 13 observed, and 22 unobserved harassing missions on enemy targets along the Corps front.

f. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery fired 8 missions in field artillery roles. Searchlights were used to illuminate targets for the 44th and 100th Infantry Divisions. Radar search directed 14 field artillery missions southwest of VOLLMUNSTER (Q7258) and 19 field artillery missions south of PEPPENKUM (Q6760).

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g. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain the roads and bridges in the Corps sector.

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 72 sorties in support of XV Corps. Twenty-four aircraft bombed and strafed SEYWILLER (Q6662) in close support of the 44th Infantry Division. The remainder of the aircraft on long range missions bombed and strafed EPPENBROWN (Q8757) and ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7372).

i. No prisoners were captured during the period in the XV Corps sector.

10. 10 MARCH 1945:

XV Corps maintained its defensive positions along a quiet front. The greater part of hostile artillery fire fell on the high ground, roads, and front lines in the area: LE BUCHENBUSCH (Q6756) - HOTTVILLER (Q7253) - PETIT REDERCHING (Q6550).

A message dated 2130, 10 March, from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding Generals, 71st and 100th Infantry Divisions directed, in substance, that: the 71st Infantry Division relieve elements of the 100th Infantry Division in the area: (Q746477) - (Q7043) - (Q6640) - (Q6236) - (Q6137) - (Q6037) - (Q5930) - (Q5934) - (Q5832) - (Q6231) - (Q6434) - (Q6937) - (Q743415) commencing the night of 11-12 March. The relieving elements of the 71st Infantry Division were to be attached to the 100th Infantry Division, the 71st Infantry Division Artillery moving to position areas designated by Commanding General 100th Infantry Division as soon as practicable after arriving the the assembly area of the 71st Infantry Division. The command of the sector was to pass to the Commanding General 71st Infantry Division on Corps order about 15 March (5).

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. Normal patrols operated on the Division front. Front lines and roads were subjected to hostile moderate artillery fire.

(1) The 398th Infantry occupied and improved its defensive positions. Hostile artillery and mortar fire was moderate. The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7447) - (Q7348).

(2) The 399th Infantry maintained its positions of the previous period. Reconnaissance patrols probed enemy positions and located numerous prepared emplacements, but found the unoccupied. Upon relief by the 1st Battalion at 2130 in position, the 3d Battalion closed at 2400 in the vicinity of SIERSSTHAL (Q7149). The 1st Battalion on the left and the 2d Battalion on the right held the line: (Q7348) - (Q7450) - (Q7351).

(3) Reconnaissance patrols were dispatched from the defensive positions of the 397th Infantry. Moderate light caliber enemy artillery fire fell on positions throughout the regimental sector. Company E, the 3d and 1st Battalions from right to left, held the line: (Q7351) - (Q7353) - (Q7254) - (Q6955). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve at HOLEBACH (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued to improve its defensive positions and to conduct aggressive patrolling. Hostile artillery and mortar fire, which fell on division forward positions, was sporadic. RIMLING (Q6555) received one concentration.

(1) The 324th Infantry improved its defensive positions. Patrols

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reconnoitered to the front during the early part of the period. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6956) - (Q6857) - (Q6656) - (Q6646). The 1st Battalion was in reserve at BETTVILLER (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry maintained and improved its defensive positions. Patrolling continued but no close contacts were reported. The line: (Q6646) - (Q6645) - (Q6356) was held with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion was in reserve at GROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

(3) The 114th Infantry continued to improve its defensive positions. Routine patrols were dispatched. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6356) - (Q5956). The 2d Battalion remained in reserve at WOELFLING (Q5954).

c. The 14th and 66th Infantry Regiments, 71st Infantry Division, closed in assembly areas in the vicinity of ALTWEILER (Q4537) by 1430.

d. CCA, CCB, and CCR 6th Armored Division closed in assembly areas in the vicinity of VIC-SUR-SEILLE (Q1121) by 2400.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group (106th and 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons) (less Troop B 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group) in Corps reserve continued its training and rehabilitation program in the vicinity of WEYER (Q5728). Troop C maintained its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGNOT LINE.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 2 observed and 9 unobserved counterbattery missions during the period. Ten observed and 20 unobserved missions were fired on enemy targets along the Corps front.

g. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery fired 3 unobserved interdiction and 5 unobserved harassing missions in field artillery roles. Radar search resulted in 10 field artillery missions fired on enemy personnel in the area: PEPPENKUM (Q6760) - ETCHING (Q6557) and 14 field artillery missions fired on personnel and vehicles near (Q7057).

h. XV Corps Engineers carried on normal road and bridge maintenance functions in the Corps sector.

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 202 sorties during the period, 96 of which were in support of XV Corps. Twelve aircraft in close support of the 100th Infantry Division attacked with rockets and bombed barracks and anti-aircraft gun positions on the northeast edge of BUTCHE (Q7750); 12 aircraft attacked with rockets, bombed, and strafed BREITFURT (Q6466); 48 aircraft bombed the ZWIEBRUCKEN (Q7572) marshalling yards; and 24 aircraft bombed the HOLBURG (Q7180) marshalling yards by radar.

j. One prisoner was captured by the 100th Infantry Division in the XV Corps sector during the period.

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11. 11 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued its defensive mission along a quiet front. Hostile artillery fire generally followed the pattern of the previous day. The area: LE BUCHENBUSCH (Q6756) - HOTTVILLER (Q7253) - PETIT RENDRCHING (Q6850) was subjected to the bulk of the shelling, while other areas, particularly the right portion of the Corps sector, received light harassing fire.

Operations Instructions No 135 XV Corps, dated 1030, 11 March, announced the attachment of the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions to XV Corps and directed, in substance, that:

The 3d Infantry Division move by motors commencing the night of 12 March from the vicinity of PONT-a-MOUSSONS (U7635) to an assembly area west of OERLINGEN (Q5544). Movements to be made under the cover of darkness: not less than two RCTs to move the night of 12-13 March, and the remainder of the division to move the night of 14-15 March. (6).

The 45th Infantry Division move by motors commencing 12 March from the vicinity of BACCARAT (V2863) to an assembly area west of WOUSTVILLER (Q4753). Movement to be made under cover of darkness: two RCTs to move the night of 13-14 March, and the remainder of the division to move the night of 14-15 March. (7).

Operations Instructions 137 XV Corps, dated 1300, 11 March, in accordance with Operations Instructions No 87 Seventh Army, dated 10 March, assigned a new XV Corps left boundary effective 1600, 13 March, as follows: (Q5764) - (Q5460) - (Q5256) - (Q4953) - (Q4845) - check point (Q5361) - (Q4845) - (Q4743) - (Q4643) - (Q4443) - (Q3330), all inclusive to XV Corps. The new Corps right boundary, effective 1600, 14 March, was presented as follows: (Q7559) - (Q7354) - (Q6850) - (Q6349) - (Q6246) - (Q5740) - (Q5038) - (Q4263), all inclusive to XV Corps. The 44th Infantry Division was directed to relieve elements of the 63d Infantry Division (XXI Corps) east of the new left boundary during the night of 12-13 March. Command of the sector was to pass to the command of the Commanding General 44th Infantry Division at 0600, 13 March.

The 44th Infantry Division was directed to relieve elements of the 100th Infantry Division west of the point (Q7354) on the night of 13-14 March, command of the sector to pass to the control of the Commanding General 44th Infantry Division at 0600, 14 March.

a. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission along a quiet front. Front line positions and roads received hostile sporadic artillery fire. LAMBACH (Q7248) and LEIBERG (Q7345) received moderate concentrations.

(1) The 398th Infantry maintained its front line positions. Hostile artillery and mortar fire fell on forward areas. The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7447) - (Q7348).

(2) The 399th Infantry maintained its front line positions. Normal patrols were dispatched by all units. Harassing enemy small arms, mortar, and artillery fire fell in the 2d Battalion sector. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7348) - (Q7450) - (Q7351). The 3d Battalion remained in reserve at SIERSTHAL (Q7149).

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(3) No change was made in the defensive dispositions of the 397th Infantry. Normal patrolling was conducted by all units. Moderate hostile artillery and mortar fire fell in the 1st and 3d Battalion sectors. Company E, the 3d, and 1st Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7354) - (Q7353) - (Q7254) - (Q6955). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near HALBACH (Q7151).

b. All regiments of the 44th Infantry Division continued to improve their defensive positions. Changes were made in the dispositions of units preparatory to relieving elements of the 100th and 63d Infantry Divisions within the new division boundary. Sporadic hostile artillery fire fell throughout the sector.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained and improved its defensive positions. Normal patrols were dispatched along the regimental front. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6956) - (Q6857) - (Q6656) - (Q6646). The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Elements of the 1st Battalion relieved elements of the 2d Battalion in position at 2040 and assumed command of the sector. The 2d Battalion (Company K attached) relieved the 1st Battalion 114th Infantry in position at 2125 and assumed command of the sector. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6656) - (Q6556) - (Q6256). The 3d Battalion (less Company K) remained in reserve at GROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

(3) The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. The 1st Battalion was relieved in position by elements of the 71st Infantry at 2125. The 1st Battalion closed in WOELFLING (Q5954) prior to the close of the period. The 2d Battalion moved from WOELFLING and closed in FOLPERSVILLERY (Q5954). The 3d Battalion remained on the line: (Q6256) - (Q6056).

c. The remainder of the 71st Infantry Division closed into the XV Corps area and assembled in the vicinity of ALTWEILER (Q4537).

(1) The 5th RCT moved to the 100th Infantry Division sector and was attached to the 100th Infantry Division at the close of the period. One battalion closed in the vicinity of ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243), one in the vicinity of SOUCHT (Q7040), and one near MEISENTHAL (Q7240).

(2) The 14th and 66th Infantry Regiments commenced a training program near ALTWEILER (Q1430).

d. The remaining elements of the 6th Armored Division closed in assembly areas in the vicinity of VIC-SUR-SEILLE (Q1121) at 0200.

(1) CCA, CCB, and CCR commenced a training program near VIC-SUR-SEILLE (Q1121).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group (106th and 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons) (less Troop B 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group) in Corps reserve, continued its training and maintenance program near WEYER (Q5728). Troop C 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to maintain the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SAAR River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

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f. XV Corps Artillery fired 16 counterbattery, 27 observed, and 18 unobserved harassing missions on enemy targets along the Corps front.

g. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery fired 5 missions in field artillery roles. Searchlights were used to illuminate targets for the 44th and 100th Infantry Divisions. Radar ground search directed 15 field artillery missions south of UETTELER (Q6858) and 18 field artillery missions southwest of VOLLMUNSTER (Q2758).

h. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 3-span class 40 steel stringer bridge near (Q5544). The program of road and bridge maintenance was continued.

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 108 sorties in support of XV Corps: 48 aircraft attacked with rockets, bombed, and strafed HOUTHOUSE (Q7942), EGUELSHARDT (Q8246), BAINSTEIN (Q8344), and VOLLMUNSTER (Q2758) in support of the 100th Infantry Division; 24 aircraft attacked with rockets, bombed, and strafed MEDELSHEIM (Q6560), BOCKWEILER (Q6764), and destroyed the bridge near (Q6160) in support of the 44th Infantry Division. The remainder of the aircraft bombed the HOMBERG (Q7181) marshalling yards, NEUNKIRCHEN (Q5983), and ST INGEBERT (Q5475).

j. Six prisoners were captured by the 100th Infantry Division in the XV Corps sector during the period.

SUMMARY

The enemy situation in front of XV Corps from 1 March to 11 March remained approximately the same as during the month of February. Although the enemy was not aggressive, he reacted positively to efforts to penetrate his lines.

During the time he had been in position, the enemy had laid several thousand mines across the Corps front, and had placed tactical wire, schu mines, and booby traps to protect his positions.

His troops were not his best. At the end of February, the 599th Infantry Division had been withdrawn from the BITCHE sector and dispatched to the FORBACH area. The 2d Mountain Division took over in the BITCHE sector, but that division in turn was hurriedly sent north because of the pressure exacted upon the German defensive organization by Third Army. From prisoners of war identifications, it appeared that the 245th Infantry Division was in command of the BITCHE area during the early part of March.

Logistics was not a difficult problem for XV Corps. Stockpiles were built up in anticipation of offensive operations and a salvage program was carried on with cooperation of French civilians through G-5.

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ASSAULT OF THE SIEGFRIED LINE
AND BREAKTHROUGH TO THE RHINE

12-14 March - Preparation for the attack

15-19 March - Assault of the German Line

20-21 March - Breakthrough and pursuit

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INTRODUCTION

From 12-14 March the strength of XV Corps was built up for its attack scheduled to begin 15 March to break the SIEGFRIED LINE and cross the RHINE River.

At the beginning of the month, XV Corps consisted of the 44th and 100th Infantry Divisions and Corps troops. On 13 March the 45th Infantry Division and the 6th Armored Division were attached to XV Corps, and on 14 March the 3d and 71st Infantry Divisions were attached. It was anticipated that the 44th Infantry Division would be attached to XV Corps for the attack on the SIEGFRIED LINE only.

The enemy situation on the Corps front prior to 15 March was favorable for a large-scale attack by the Corps. The principal enemy units in the sector were the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division and the 16th Infantry Division (with elements of the 245th Infantry Division attached).

The enemy effective combat strength in the XV Corps zone was estimated not to exceed 4500; and the overall strength was placed at 8300. It was believed that the SIEGFRIED LINE was thinly held, with specific locations in the line prepared for occupation by the 17th SS and the 16th Infantry Divisions. A small number of fortress units, supplemented by Volksturm troops, was believed to comprise the remainder of the enemy opposition for the contemplated operations. At the same time, it was believed that the Germans would not risk the commitment of a new major unit west of the RHINE.

Stockpiles of all classes of supplies had been built up in anticipation of the coming offensive, and plans were made to set up forward dumps as the attack progressed.

The weather was warm and clear, and forecasts predicted similar weather for many days.

12. 12 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued to maintain its defensive positions while units were moved to new assembly areas preparatory to assuming the offensive. The enemy continued to maintain his passive defense. Hostile artillery fire showed a decrease from that of the previous period; concentrations were principally directed on the ridge running generally from the vicinity of PETIT REDERCHING (Q6850) to the vicinity of (Q6954). A small number of scattered rounds fell on front line positions.

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Field Order 22 XV Corps, dated 1200, 12 March 1945, was published in conformity with Seventh Army Field Order 10, dated 1200, 11 March 1945.

By the provisions of Field Order 10, Seventh Army was to cease its defensive operations and was to attack on "D" day (later announced as 15 March) at "H" hour (later announced at 0100) from the positions then held to destroy the enemy in its zone and to seize the west bank of the RHINE River. The RHINE River was to be crossed between MANNHEIM (R5400) and MAINZ (L3755) and a bridgehead established in preparation for a subsequent advance to the north.

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east. The 71st Infantry Division and the 6th Armored Division were attached to XV Corps for operations and the 44th Infantry Division was to be detached from XV Corps on "D" plus 1 and placed in Seventh Army reserve.

The XII Tactical Air Force was to allot 75% of its fighter-bomber effort for the close support of the assault troops with XV Corps to receive 40% of this allotment. The missions of the air units supporting XV Corps were to be as follows:

To neutralize enemy air opposition over the Corps zone.

To destroy enemy communication and supply facilities in and adjacent to the Corps zone.

To conduct armed reconnaissance over the Corps front and flanks.

To furnish close support for the assault divisions.

The boundaries of XV Corps were given as follows: between VI Corps and XV Corps: DRULINGEN (Q6029) - CAMP de BITCHE (Q8150) - STEIN-ALBEN (Q9479) - SCHMALENBERG (R0082) - WACHENHEIM (R3393) - OGGERSHHEIM (R4679), inclusive to XV Corps; HILBESHEIM (Q5320) - TLEFFENBACH (Q6434) - MOUTERHOUSE (Q7942) - EQUEL-SHARDT (Q8247) - EPPENBRUNN (Q8757) - BURGALBEN (Q9376) - FRANKNECK R2385 - MANNHEIM (R5400), inclusive to VI Corps. The boundary gave portions of PIRMASENS (Q9065) to each Corps. The boundary between XXI Corps and XV Corps was given as follows: CHATEAU-SALINS Q1025) - BENESTROFF (Q2934) - SARRALBE (Q4844) - NIEDER-QUURZBACH (Q6171) - KIRKEL (Q6376) - MITTEL (Q6538) - QUIRNBACH (Q7797) - DIEK-KIRCHEN (M0618), inclusive to XV Corps; SARREGUEMINES (Q5157) - WOLFSKIRCHEN (Q9009) - ALZEY (I2727), inclusive to XXI Corps.

The missions of XV Corps were given as follows:

To attack on "D" Day on the axis: RILLING (Q6555) - ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7271); penetrate the SIEGFRIED LINE in Zone and capture ZWEIBRUCKEN, HOLBURG (Q7180) and KAISERSLAUTERN (R0209).

To capture BITCHE (Q7750) and CAMP de BITCHE (Q8150) and secure the BITCH HAGUENAU (R0223) road in Zone.

To continue the attack and secure the west bank of the RHINE River in zone.

To cross the RHINE River in Zone, on Army order, north of MANNHEIM and secure a bridgehead for further operations to the northeast.

To be prepared to pass one division to VI Corps on Army order in the vicinity of PIRMASENS.

Field Order 22 XV Corps directed the 44th Infantry Division to continue its defensive mission until passed through by the 3d and 45th Infantry Division on "D" Day at "H" Hour. The attack by those division was to be supported by fire to the limit of the range of all available weapons of the 44th Infantry Division.

After the 44th Infantry Division had been passed through, it was to assemble on Corps order on "D" plus one in the area: WITTRING (Q5650) - HAMBACH (Q4951) - SARRATBE (Q4844), prepared to move to Seventh Army reserve.

The 71st Infantry Division (reinforced) was directed by FO 22 to continue its defensive mission and to support the attack of the 100th Infantry Division to the limit of the range of all available weapons as desired by the Commanding General, 100th Infantry Division. On Corps order, after "D" day, the 71st Infantry Division was to relieve the 100th Infantry Division in an area to be designated near BITCHE.

The 100th Infantry Division (reinforced) was ordered by FO 22 to attack on "D" day at "H" hour between the point (Q7447) and the division left boundary (Q6650), pass through the left elements of the 71st Infantry, 44th Infantry Division; capture BITCHE, CAMP de BITCHE and the high ground in the division zone to the north and south of BITCHE, and advance on Corps order to the north with all or part of the division protecting the Corps right (east) flank.

The 3d Infantry Division (reinforced) was given the mission of attacking on "D" day at "H" hour, passing through elements of the 44th Infantry Division and assuming command of the zone with the line: (Q6650) - (Q7255) - (Q8075) - (Q8826) - (Q918) forming the division right boundary (also the boundary between the 100th Infantry Division and the 3d Infantry Division) and the line: (Q6254) - (Q6966) - (Q7576) - (Q7682) - (Q8693) - (R0095) - (R1401) - (Q1804) - (Q3312) forming the division left boundary (also the boundary between the 3d Infantry Division and the 45th Infantry Division). The 3d Infantry Division was to make its main effort initially in the direction: (Q7153) - SCHWEYEN (Q7462) - OBER-AUERBACH (Q7775), breach the SEIGFRIED LINE east of RUSCHWEILER (Q7369), capture that portion of ZWEIBRUCKEN within the division zone, capture the high ground in the area: WIESBACH (Q7981) - MORSBACH (Q7578) - WINTERBACH (Q8078), continue the attack in the direction of KINDBACH (Q9090), capture KAISERSLAUTERN (R0194), and be prepared to assist in the exploitation with at least one motorized RCT.

The 45th Infantry Division (reinforced) was directed to attack on "D" day at "H" hour, pass through elements of the 44th Infantry Division, and assume command of the zone between the 3d Infantry Division left boundary and the XV Corps left boundary, making its initial effort in the direction: OBERGAILBACH (Q6257) - SEYVILLER (Q6662) - WATTWEILER (Q6970) - HOLBURG (Q7180), breaching the SEIGFRIED LINE east of the BLIES River, capturing that portion of ZWEIBRUCKEN within the division zone, capturing HOLBURG and the high ground in the area: REISKIRCHEN (Q7083) - HOLBURG-BECHHOFEN (Q7683), then continuing the attack in the direction of WEILERBACH (Q9298), assisting the 3d Infantry Division in the capture of KAISERSLAUTERN by the seizure of the high ground in the vicinity of MORLAUTERN (R0296), and protecting the Corps left flank, prepared to assist in the exploitation of anticipated success with at least one motorized RCT.

The 106th Cavalry Group was directed to be prepared to move on Corps order on three hours notice to cover the Corps right (east) flank from the vicinity of WALSCHBRONN (Q8161) until relieved by the 100th Infantry Division and to reconnoiter to the east and northeast. After the breach of the SEIGFRIED LINE the 106th Cavalry Group was to cover the Corps left (west) flank, initially from the vicinity of KUSEL (J7604) and ST WENDEL (Q5997), and to conduct reconnaissance to the north and northwest.

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The 6th Armored Division was directed to be prepared to displace on Corps order from the vicinity of VIC-SUR-SEILLE (Q1221) to the area: WITTING (Q5650) (exclusive) SARRE-UNION (Q5238) - BUTTEN (Q6221). After "H" hour the division was to maintain close liaison with the 45th and 54th Infantry Divisions and to prepare to exploit, on Corps order, any breakthrough in either or both of the assault zones of the divisions, by passing KAIERSLAUTERN and securing exits to the RHINE Plain at BAD DURKHEIM (R3195), GRUNSTADT (M3107), and REISEN (M2011). The division was ordered to be prepared to continue the attack rapidly toward the RHINE River.

a. The 100th Infantry Division (5th and 66th Infantry Regiments, 71st Infantry Division attached) continued to maintain its defensive position. The division front was actively patrolled. Hostile artillery fire continued moderate.

(1) The 398th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Patrols continued to probe enemy positions. Increased enemy mortar and artillery fire fell on forward positions. The 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7447) - (Q7348).

(2) The 397th Infantry continued to defend its positions. Company "E" was relieved in position by Company "G" prior to the close of the period. Company "G", the 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7351) - (Q7353) - (Q7254) - (Q6955). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was in reserve near HOLBACH (Q7151).

(3) The 399th Infantry maintained and improved its positions. Hostile artillery fire, while moderate, showed an increase over that of the previous period. The line: (Q7348) - (Q7450) - (Q7351) was held with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion was in reserve at SIERSTHAL (Q7149).

(4) The 5th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) was in reserve in the ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243) - SOUCHT (Q7040) - WEISENTHAL (Q7240) area.

(5) The 66th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) at the close of the period was in the process of moving from the vicinity of ALTWEILER (Q1430) to the sector of the 100th Infantry Division.

b. The 44th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission and assumed command of its additional sector as directed in Operations Instructions No 137 XV Corps, dated 11 March.

(1) The 324th Infantry improved its defensive positions. Elements of the 2d Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion in position without incident at 2135. The 3d Battalion closed into an assembly area near HOELLING (Q6753) at the close of the period. The 2d Battalion held the line: (Q6956) - (Q6857) - (Q6656) - (Q6646) and the 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q6753).

(2) No changes were made in the defensive dispositions of the 71st Infantry. Enemy mortar and artillery fire continued sporadic. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q6656) - (Q6556) - (Q6156). The 3d Battalion was in reserve at GROS REDECHING (Q6252).

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(3). The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions and at 2205 relieved the 255th Infantry 63d Infantry Division (XII Corps) in position without incident. Command of the sector passed to the 114th Infantry at 2315. The 3d Battalion by 2000 had extended its front to the left to include the point near (Q5857). At the close of the period the 3d, 1st, and 2d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q6156) - (Q5957) - (Q5857) - (Q5659) - (Q5461).

c. The 71st Infantry Division (less the 5th and 66th Infantry Regiments) at 1200 completed closing in assembly areas in the vicinity of ALTWEILER.

(1) The 66th Infantry at the close of the period was in the process of moving to the 100th Infantry Division sector.

(2) The 5th Infantry was attached to the 100th Infantry Division.

(3) The 14th Infantry continued to train near ALTWEILER.

d. The 6th Armored Division continued to train near VIC-SUR-SEILLE (Q1120).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group), in Corps reserve, continued its training and maintenance program near WEIER (Q5728). Troop "C" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARTRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 12 counterbattery, 8 observed, and 8 unobserved missions on enemy targets along the Corps front.

g. XV Corps Engineers continued road and bridge maintenance program.

h. During the period XII Tactical Air Force flew 86 sorties; 24 of which were in support of XV Corps. PIRNASENS (Q9066) and NEUNKIRCHEN (Q5983) were bombed with the assistance of radar direction.

i. No prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period.

13. 13 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps maintained its defensive positions while shifting units preparatory to the start of the offensive operation directed by FO 22, 12 March 1945. All troop movements were completed without opposition; there being no change in the passive attitude of the enemy. Hostile artillery activity was largely directed toward the right portion of the Corps sector. Self-propelled guns shelled positions near (Q7451), (Q7348), and (Q7448).

Operations Instructions 138 XV Corps, dated 2000, 13 March directed that: the 71st Infantry Division during the night 13-14 March complete the relief of elements of the 100th Infantry Division within the area: (Q7349) - (Q6039) - (Q5634) - (Q5928) - (Q6334) - (Q8158) - (Q7748) - (Q7648); the Commanding General 71st Infantry Division to assume command of the sector indicated at 0900, 14 March and continue the defensive mission formerly given the 100th Infantry Division. Preparations were ordered to be made to advance to the vicinity of BITCHE (Q7750) on Corps order.

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a. The 100th Infantry Division (5th and 66th Infantry Regiments attached) maintained its defensive positions. Installations in the center of the sector received moderate artillery fire. The re-arrangement of units in both the right and left portions of the sector continued.

(1) At the beginning of the period the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 5th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) relieved elements of the 398th Infantry in position from SARREINSBERG (Q7441) to LEEBERG (Q7445) and began a program of active patrolling. Moderate artillery fire fell in the left portion of the sector. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7442) - (Q7444). The 3d Battalion remained in reserve at ST LOUIS les BICHE (Q7243).

(2) Early in the period the 5th Infantry relieved elements of the 398th Infantry in position in the right portion of the regimental sector. At the close of the period other elements of the 398th Infantry were in the process of being relieved in position by elements of the 66th Infantry. A perceptible increase in enemy artillery fire was noted. As the period ended the 1st and 3d Battalions were still in position on the line: (Q7445) - (Q7547). The 2d Battalion closed in as assembly area in the vicinity of PISDORF (Q5132).

(3) The 66th Infantry (attached to the 100th Infantry Division) was in the process of relieving elements of the 398th Infantry and the 2d Battalion 399th Infantry in position at the close of the period. The 1st and 3d Battalions were near (Q7040) and the 2d Battalion was near (Q7145).

(4) The 399th Infantry maintained its front line positions. Increased enemy mortar and artillery fire was reported as having fallen on forward positions. Positions of the 2d Battalion were strafed by enemy planes. At the close of the period elements of the 66th Infantry were in the process of relieving the 2d Battalion in position. The line: (Q7446) - (Q7452) was held by the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q7249).

(5) The 397th Infantry maintained its positions. At 2115 the 1st and 3d Battalions were relieved in position by the 3d Battalion 324th Infantry (44th Infantry Division). The 1st Battalion closed in an assembly area at BIRING (Q6549) at 2300 and the 3d Battalion closed in an assembly area at ROHRBACH (Q6549) at 2200. Company "G" continued to hold front line positions on the line: (Q7452) - (Q7353). The remainder of the 2d Battalion was at HOLBACH (Q7151).

b. The 44th Infantry Division improved and adjusted its defensive positions. Hostile artillery and mortar fire continued sporadic.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. At 2115 the 3d Battalion relieved elements of the 397th Infantry (100th Infantry Division) in position. At the close of the period the 3d and 2d Battalions with the 3d Battalion on the right held the line: (Q7353) - (Q7355) - (Q7155) - (Q6956) - (Q6756). The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry maintained its defensive positions along a quiet front. Hostile sporadic artillery and mortar fire fell on forward positions.

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The 1st and 2d Battalions and Company "K" from right to left held the line: (Q6756) - (Q6556) - (Q6255) - (Q6156). The remainder of the 3d Battalion was in reserve near GROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

(3) The 114th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Routine reconnaissance patrols were dispatched. The 3d, 1st, and 2d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q6156) - (Q5957) - (Q5857) - (Q5659) - (Q5461).

c. The 71st Infantry Division (less the 5th and 66th Infantry Regiments attached to the 100th Infantry Division) continued training in the vicinity of ALTWEILER (Q1430).

(1) The 14th Infantry was en route to the area: VOLKSBERG (Q6836) - SOUCHT (Q7030) - MEISENTHAL (Q7140) at the close of the period.

d. The 3d Infantry Division began movement to an assembly area near (Q5847).

e. The 45th Infantry Division began movement to an assembly area near (Q5152).

f. The 6th Armored Division continued its training and maintenance program near VIC-SUR-SEILLE (Q1120).

g. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to the Sixth Army Group), in Corps reserve, continued its training and maintenance program near WEYER (Q5728). Troop "C" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to maintain its counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGNOT LINE.

h. XV Corps Artillery fired 11 counterbattery, 9 observed, and 6 unobserved missions during the day and 17 radar missions during the night on enemy targets in the VOLMUNSTER (Q7258) area.

i. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery engaged four P-47s with normal US markings which had strafed friendly troops near (Q6040), (Q5838), (Q5739), and (Q7047). Two planes were hit and were smoking badly when they left the area.

j. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain the roads and bridges in the Corps area.

k. Twenty-six aircraft of the XII Tactical Air Force bombed PIRLASENS (Q9066) and NEUNKIRCHEN (Q4983) in support of XV Corps.

l. Three prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 1 and the 100th Infantry Division 2.

14. 14 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued to defend its positions along a quiet front. There was no change in the passive attitude of the enemy. Hostile artillery fire continued moderate and sporadic.

The Air Cooperation Plan (Medium Bombers) XV Corps dated 1530, 14 March, was published as Annex 1 to Field Order 22 XV Corps, 12 March. It directed

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that the 3d Infantry Division be given first priority on medium bomber support on "D" Day and on "D" plus one. If the support were refused by the Commanding General 3d Infantry Division, the 45th Infantry Division was to be given medium bomber support. If the Commanding General 45th Infantry Division was unable to utilize the medium bombers, the bombers were to continue to secondary targets, in priority: LANDSTUHL (Q8790), FRANKENSTEIN (R1793), BAD DUNKELHEIM (R3195), GRUNSTADT (M3107), FRANKENTHAL (M4404), and ALZEY (M2727).

a. The Commanding General 71st Infantry Division at 0900 assumed command of the sector designated in Operations Instructions No 138, XV Corps and the division continued its defensive mission. The 5th and 66th Infantry Regiments reverted to the control of the Commanding General 71st Infantry Division. Scattered, moderate hostile artillery fire fell on forward positions.

(1) The 5th Infantry improved its defensive positions. Moderate enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on forward positions. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7444). The 3d Battalion was in reserve near ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

(2) The 66th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Scattered enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on forward positions. The 3d, 1st, and 2d Battalion in that order held the line: (Q7444) - (Q7348).

(3) The 14th Infantry at 1400 occupied positions on the Corps right (east) boundary with the 3d Battalion at LEISENTHAL (Q7241), the 2d Battalion at SOUCHT (Q7039) and the 1st Battalion at VOLKSBERG (Q6838).

b. The 100th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions without enemy interference. Relief of forward elements by elements of the 71st Infantry Division continued. Hostile artillery fire continued moderate.

(1) The relief of the 398th Infantry by elements of the 66th Infantry (71st Infantry Division) was completed. The 1st Battalion closed in an assembly area near (Q6744) at 0015. The 3d Battalion was relieved in position at 0100 and closed in the vicinity of (Q6945) by 0330. The 2d Battalion moved from PISDORF (Q5132) to the vicinity of (Q6975) and closed before the end of the period.

(2) The 399th Infantry continued to maintain its positions. Hostile artillery fire fell on forward positions. At 0500 the 2d Battalion was relieved in position by elements of the 66th Infantry (71st Infantry Division). At the close of the period the 1st Battalion held the line: (Q7448) - (Q7550) - (Q7451). The 2d Battalion and 3d Battalion were in reserve near (Q7249).

(3) Elements of the 2d Battalion 397th Infantry maintained the regimental front. The 1st and 3d Battalions, in rear areas, were engaged in cleaning and repairing equipment. At the close of the period the 1st and 3d Battalions began movement to forward assembly areas. The line: (Q7451) - (Q7352) was held by Company "G". The remainder of the 2d Battalion was at HOLBACH (Q7151), the 1st Battalion was at BINING (Q6540) and the 3d Battalion was at ROHRBACH (Q6549).

c. The 44th Infantry Division maintained its defensive positions of the

previous period. Hostile, intermittent, artillery fire fell on forward positions.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. During the latter part of the period all battalions assisted the forthcoming attack of the 3d Infantry Division by breaching tactical wire and minefields to the front of the regiment. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7352) - (Q7354) - (Q6955) - (Q6856) - (Q6655). The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry continued to maintain its defensive positions. Hostile artillery and mortar fire continued sporadic. The 1st and 2d Battalions and Company "K" in that order from right to left held the line: (Q6655) - (Q6055). The remainder of the 3d Battalion was in reserve at GROS FREDERCHING (Q6252).

(3) No changes were made in the defensive dispositions of the 114th Infantry. The 3d, 1st, and 2d Battalions in that order from right to left held the line: (Q6055) - (Q5558) - (Q5559) - (Q5459).

d. The 3d Infantry Division closed into the XV Corps sector and made preparations to attack on 15 March.

(1) The 30 Infantry closed into an assembly area near RAHLING (Q6243) at 0310. Under cover of darkness movement was initiated to forward areas in the rear of the 44th Infantry Division near (Q6953). The movement was completed by the end of the period.

(2) The 7th Infantry closed in assembly areas in the vicinity of ACHEN (Q6049) at 0430. After darkness movement was begun to forward assembly areas in the rear of the 44th Infantry Division near (Q6453). The movement was completed prior to the close of the period.

(3) The 15th Infantry (less one Battalion) closed in the vicinity of DEHLINGEN (Q6042) by the close of the period.

e. The 45th Infantry Division moved to forward assembly areas in preparation for the attack on 15 March.

(1) The 157th Infantry closed in assembly areas in the vicinity of WITTRING (Q5750) at 2400, 13 March. After darkness on 14 March the regiment moved to forward assembly areas in the rear of the 44th Infantry Division near (Q6054) in preparation for the attack.

(2) At 0345 the 180th Infantry closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of NEUFGRANGE (Q5153). At darkness movement was initiated to forward assembly areas in the rear of the 44th Infantry Division near (Q5653).

(3) The 179th Infantry closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of SILTZHEIM (Q5351) at 2200.

f. The 6th Armored Division continued its training and maintenance program near VIC-SUR-SEILLE (Q1120). Liaison was established with the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions.

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g. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group), in Corps reserve, continued its training and maintenance program near WEYER (Q5728). Preparations were made for movement to forward assembly areas. Liaison was established with the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions. Troop "C" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to maintain the counterreconnaissance screen east of the SARRE River and south of the MAGINOT LINE.

h. XV Corps Artillery fired 5 counterbattery, 21 observed, and 3 unobserved missions on enemy targets along the Corps front. One enemy tank was knocked out in the vicinity of BITCHE (Q7750) during the period.

i. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road and bridge maintenance.

j. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with 120 sorties on long range missions. Ammunition dumps near (Q6275), (Q5980), (Q5980), (Q7754), (Q6275), (Q7754), (Q6070), (Q6275), and (Q5974) were bombed and strafed. Twenty flat cars with motor transport and crates were bombed and strafed near (Q9376) with good results. Seventy-five box cars near (Q9073) were bombed and strafed and a locomotive near (Q9074) was strafed. Twenty of 40 boxcars near (H1193) were damaged by strafing. Medium bombers destroyed the railroad bridge at BADMUNSTER (R0836). Heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force bombed ZWELBRUCKEN (Q7372) during the night.

k. Six prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: the 44th Infantry Division captured 2, the 71st Infantry Division 2, and the 100th Infantry Division 2.

15. 15 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps launched a coordinated attack to the north at 0100 and to the east at 0500 as directed by Field Order 22, XV Corps, dated 12 March 1945. An advance of about three miles was made in the zones of all attacking divisions through extensive enemy minefields against moderate enemy resistance. Hostile artillery fire consisted primarily of small concentrations on forward elements and roads. LEMBERG (Q7445) in the right portion of the Corps sector was subjected to an intense concentration.

Operations Instructions 140 XV Corps, dated 2100, 15 March, directed in substance that:

The 71st Infantry Division relieve elements of the 100th Infantry Division prior to 2400, 15 March, between the limiting point near (Q7447) prescribed in Field Order 22, XV Corps and the road junction at (Q765484) and that command of this sector pass to the Commanding General 71st Infantry Division upon completion of the relief.

The 44th Infantry Division move 16 March from its positions along the line: (Q7352) - (Q5459) to the area indicated in Field Order 22 (the area: WITTRING (Q5650) - HALBACH (Q4951) - SARRALBE (Q4844)) and that the division prepare for movement to the north, northeast, or northwest on Seventh Army order after 1800, 16 March.

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a. The 71st Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. Aggressive patrols engaged in local small arms fights with forward hostile elements. Hostile artillery fire was generally moderate and scattered, however, LEMBERG (Q7445) was subjected to one intense concentration.

(1) The 14th Infantry organized and improved its positions protecting the Corps right (east) flank. Reconnaissance was initiated with the view of relieving elements of the 5th Infantry. The 3d Battalion was at REISENTHAL (Q7241), the 2d Battalion was at SOUCHT (Q7039), and the 1st Battalion was at VOLKSBERG (Q6838).

(2) The 66th Infantry maintained its defensive positions and supported by fire the attack of the 100th Infantry Division. The 2d Battalion by 1830 relieved elements of the 100th Infantry Division between the limiting point near (Q7447) and the road junction (Q7648). The 3d, 1st, and 2d Battalions in that order from right to left held the line: (Q7444) - (Q7345).

(3) The 5th Infantry improved its defensive positions. Vigilant patrols screened the regimental front line positions. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7444). The 3d Battalion remained at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

b. The 100th Infantry Division commenced its attack at 0500. Contact with the enemy was light. Hostile resistance consisted mainly of sporadic artillery and mortar fire. Numerous anti-personnel and anti-tank mines were encountered.

(1) The 399th Infantry attacked at 0500 with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast. The attack of the 2d Battalion was impeded initially by elaborate fields of enemy tactical wire and by heavy small arms fire and strong enemy artillery fire in the vicinity of (Q7547). By 1600 SPITZBERG Ridge (Q7548) was seized. At 1830 the 2d Battalion was relieved in position by the 2d Battalion 66th Infantry. Upon relief the 2d Battalion moved to reserve positions near (Q7449). The 3d Battalion passed through the positions of the 1st Battalion and captured KIRSCHHEIDT Ridge (Q7549) by 0613, SCHIMBERG Ridge (Q7549) by 0648, and SCHOENBERG Ridge (Q7648) by 0705. REYERSVILLER (Q7549) and REYERSVILLER Ridge were captured during the day. Enemy resistance was moderate consisting principally of small arms and automatic weapons fire. Patrols were dispatched to BITCHE (Q7750) and to the COLLEGE de BITCHE (Q7750) where numerous automatic weapons positions were encountered. At the close of the period the 3d Battalion held positions near (Q7749). The 1st Battalion, in reserve, occupied positions on SCHIMBERG Ridge near (Q7494) which position it held at the close of the period.

(2) The 398th Infantry attacked at 0500 to seize the MAGNOT FORTS on the high ground northeast of BITCHE and on the high ground southeast of SCHORBACH. Enemy resistance was light, artillery fire was moderate, but progress was impeded by many mines. The 3d Battalion in reserve moved from (Q6945) to an assembly area near (Q7350) before the close of the period. The 2d Battalion was near (Q7751) and the 1st Battalion was near (Q7552) at mid-night.

(3) The 397th Infantry attacked at 0500 with the 1st Battalion followed by the 3d Battalion. SCHORBACH was by-passed by the 1st Battalion and the objective at (Q7853) was captured. Only light enemy small arms fire

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was encountered, but enemy mines of all types were numerous. The 3d Battalion captured SCHORBACH against moderate small arms and mortar fire. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve at HOTTVELDER (Q7253). As the period closed, the 1st Battalion was at (Q7853) and the 3d Battalion was at SCHORBACH.

c. The 3d Infantry Division launched its scheduled attack at 0100 and made steady gains throughout the day. Hostile artillery fire was moderate and of a harassing nature. Considerable rocket fire fell in the zone.

(1) The 30th Infantry attacked at 0100 with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left and advanced against strong small arms and mortar fire. EPPING-URBACH (Q6957) and URBACH (Q7065) were captured by the close of the period. As the period ended the 3d Battalion was near (Q7256), the 1st Battalion was near (Q7056), and the 2d Battalion was in reserve at (Q6854).

(2) The 7th Infantry attacked at 0100 with three battalions abreast: the 2d Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. The advance was impeded by stubborn enemy resistance; principally small arms and automatic weapons fire. Numerous minefields were also encountered. ERCHING (Q6557) and GUIDENKIRCH (Q6656) were captured. As the period closed, the battalions were disposed as follows: the 2d Battalion was near (Q6959), the 3d Battalion was near (Q6759), and the 1st Battalion was near (Q6558).

(3) The 15th Infantry moved to forward assembly areas near (Q6856) preparatory for a night attack. At the close of the period the regiment was attacking to the northeast and meeting only slight small arms fire. The 1st Battalion was near (Q6957) and the 2d and 3d Battalions were near (Q6856).

d. The 45th Infantry Division attacked in its zone at 0100 and made satisfactory progress against strong resistance. Sporadic, moderate, hostile artillery fire fell on roads and trails in forward areas. Strong rocket fire was received in the division zone.

(1) The 157th Infantry attacked at 0100 with the 1st and 2d Battalions abreast. The 1st Battalion advanced slowly meeting strong 20mm and self-propelled fire and encountering extensive minefields. The battalion captured its initial objective (Q6457) and continued its advance. At the close of the period elements held the high ground near (Q6457) and (Q6358). Other elements encountered heavy small arms and machine gun fire at OBERGATTBACH (Q6257). The 2d Battalion advanced rapidly against moderate small arms fire and mopped up the woods near (Q6158). Progress was stopped by heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire from BLIESBRUCK (Q5957). The 2d Battalion was relieved by the 3d Battalion of the mission of capturing BLIESBRUCK and moved on to attack NIEDER-GATTBACH (Q6159) as the period ended. Initially the 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve near (Q6055). The 3d Battalion's attack on BLIESBRUCK was still in progress as the period ended.

(2) The 180th Infantry attacked at 0100 with the 1st and 3d Battalions abreast. The 1st Battalion crossed the BLIES River near (Q5758) in assault boats against moderate small arms fire and captured the high ground (Q5962) by 1600 against moderate small arms and mortar fire. The battalion still held those positions at the end of the period. The 3d Battalion crossed the BLIES River near

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(Q5559) against moderate small arms and mortar fire, by-passed HABKIRCHEN (Q5659), captured the high ground near (Q5662), and mopped up several enemy strong points against desultory resistance. At 1600 the attack was continued and by the close of the day NEUHAF (Q5663) was captured against moderate small arms resistance. The 2d Battalion, initially in reserve, crossed the BLIES River near (Q5758) and cleared HABKIRCHEN, receiving strong artillery fire. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion was assembling in regimental reserve near (Q5760).

(3) The 179th Infantry, in division reserve, made plans and conducted reconnaissance for quick employment in the division zone. During the afternoon the 1st Battalion was ordered to clear by-passed towns in the rear of the 180th Infantry. REINHEIM (Q5960), BLIESMENGEN (Q5461), and BLIESBOLOHEN (Q5461) were cleared against moderate small arms fire. The north portion of BLIESBRUCK was being attacked at the close of the period. The remainder of the regiment was at (Q5252).

e. The 44th Infantry Division maintained its positions of the previous day. Assistance was given to the attacking divisions by making gaps in tactical wire, removing mines, and by fires when requested.

(1) The 324th Infantry maintained its positions. The attacking divisions were assisted by fire upon request. Roads were cleared of mines after the attack had begun. The 3d Battalion on the right the 2d Battalion on the left held the general line: (Q7352) - (Q6955) - (Q6655). The 1st Battalion was near (Q6753).

(2) The 71st Infantry assisted the attacking elements. Lanes were opened in the tactical wire and the attack was supported by mortar fire. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left were generally disposed along the line: (Q6655) - (Q6055). The 3d Battalion remained at GROS REDERCHING (Q6252).

(3) The 114th Infantry remained in the defensive positions of the previous period. Attacking units were guided through openings made in the tactical wire. The 3d, 1st, and 2d Battalions in that order were on the line: (Q6055) - (Q5559) - (Q5459).

f. The 6th Armored Division continued its training and maintenance program near VIC-SUR-SEILLE (Q1120). Liaison was maintained with the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group) moved to forward assembly areas near ROHRBACH (Q5549) and HOTTVILLE (Q7253) prior to moving to the northeast to cover the right flank of the 3d Infantry Division. The resumption of the advance to the northeast encountered strong resistance.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron closed in forward assembly areas near (Q6649) at 0700. The squadron moved at 1100 toward LINGELSHEIM (Q7656) to cover the right flank of the 3d Infantry Division. Strong artillery and self-propelled fire halted the advance near (Q7555) and (Q7554).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (less Troop "B") moved to forward assembly areas near ROHRBACH.

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h. XV Corps Artillery fired 35 counterbattery missions in addition to a counterbattery program on 89 enemy artillery locations. A total of 47 observed and 137 unobserved missions were fired on enemy targets along the Corps front. During the night known enemy installations were harassed.

i. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery fired a total of 53 missions on ground targets. Searchlights provided illumination for the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions during the night. No hostile aircraft were reported over the Corps zone.

j. XV Corps Engineers completed a one-way, 110 foot, triple-single class 40 Bailey bridge at FRAUENBERG (Q5559) and a one-way class 70 culvert and fill at GUDERKIRCH (Q6656).

k. XII Tactical Air Force flew 703 sorties in support of XV Corps; 480 by fighter-bombers and 223 sorties by medium bombers. Seventy-two sorties were flown in close support of the 100th Infantry Division; 12 aircraft bombed and strafed FOR ODERBIEL (Q7852) and 12 aircraft bombed and strafed HASPELCHERDT (Q8154). Seventy-two sorties were flown in close support of the 3d Infantry Division; 24 aircraft bombed and strafed VOLMUNSTER (Q7238) and 12 aircraft bombed and strafed ORMERSVILLER (Q6959), PEETENKULI (Q6760), and HEDTSCHEIM (Q6560). Eighty-four sorties were flown in close support of the 45th Infantry Division; 12 aircraft bombed and strafed SEYWEILER (Q6762), BREITFURT (Q6466), HERBETSHEIM (Q6263), GERSHEIM (Q6161), REICHERN (Q5960), BEBELSHEIM (Q5863), and WITTERSHEIM (Q5865). Two hundred fifty-two long range missions were flown; motor transport, rolling stock, ammunition and supply dumps were bombed and strafed to the front of XV Corps. Two hundred fifty-three medium bombers bombed the SEIGFRIED LINE near (Q7672).

l. Six hundred twenty-eight prisoners were captured in the XV Corps zone during the period: the 3d Infantry Division captured 341, the 45th Infantry Division 176, and the 100th Infantry Division 111.

16. 16 MARCH 1945:

XV Corps continued its attack and captured the fortress town of BITCHE (Q7750) and numerous other towns along the Corps front. A general advance of from 3 to 5 kilometers was made against moderate resistance. Hostile artillery activity consisted principally of self-propelled fire on advancing elements.

Operations Instructions No. 141 XV Corps dated 2030, 16 March, confirmed oral instructions of the Commanding General XV Corps and directed, in substance, that:

The 71st Infantry Division relieve elements of the 100th Infantry Division in the area: CAMP de BITCHE (Q7752) - BITCHE (Q7750) as soon as the area had been sufficiently cleared of the enemy to permit relief without combat action; secondly, the division protect the Corps right (east) flank south of the the line: CAMP de BITCHE - BITCHE and prepare to occupy the high ground to the north and northwest of CAMP de BITCHE on Corps order after 17 March 1945.

Upon relief by the 71st Infantry Division in the CAMP de BITCHE - BITCHE area, the 100th Infantry Division attack to the north in the division zone and assist the 3d Infantry Division by making the main effort of the division in the

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left portion of the division zone with the objective the high ground on the general line: ROEFEVILLER (Q8356) - SCHWEITZ (Q8358) - WALSCHBRONN (Q8161) - ROEBLING (Q7964); secondly, that aggressive reconnaissance be conducted from this line to develop the SIEGFRIED LINE defenses in the division zone; thirdly, that the division protect the Corps right (east) flank north of the line: CAMP de BITCHE - BITCHE until relieved of that responsibility on Corps order. The attack was to be coordinated with the Commanding General 3d Infantry Division.

The 106th Cavalry Group continue its mission of screening the right flank of the 3d Infantry Division; secondly, on Corps order assemble in Corps reserve near BRIEDENBACH (Q7759).

a. The 71st Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. Vigorous patrol activity screened the division front. Hostile artillery fire was moderate. GOETZENBRUCK (Q7442) received harassing fire.

(1) The 5th Infantry improved its defensive positions. Contact was maintained with elements of VI Corps on the right. Strong artillery fire fell on 1st Battalion positions south of LEMBERG (Q7445). The 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7444). The 3d Battalion remained at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243).

(2) The 66th Infantry held its positions and established an OELR along the LEMBERG - BITCHE road. The 3d, 2d, and 1st Battalions in that order held the line: (Q7444) - (Q7348).

(3) The 14th Infantry held its defensive positions until 1400, at which time elements moved to the vicinity of BITCHE to relieve elements of the 100th Infantry Division as directed by Operations Instructions No. 141 XV Corps. The relief was still in progress at the close of the period at which time the 1st Battalion was near (Q7648) and the 2d Battalion was near (Q7349). The 3d Battalion remained in reserve at LEISENTHAL (Q7241).

b. The 100th Infantry Division continued its attack against enemy resistance which varied in intensity from moderate to strong. Hostile artillery fire was negligible, though strong self-propelled fire was encountered near CAMP de BITCHE.

(1) The 399th Infantry continued its attack at 0600 to capture BITCHE. The 1st Battalion advanced northeast toward BITCHE. Elements captured COLLEGE de BITCHE by 0704 and entered the southern part of BITCHE by 0840. Resistance was slight, consisting principally of small arms fire. The battalion continued the attack toward CAMP de BITCHE. Elements reached the vicinity of (Q8050) and (Q7849) where resistance stiffened and a close fire fight ensued. The advance supported by tanks continued slowly and by the close of the period the 1st Battalion had passed through CAMP de BITCHE and had established positions along to the east thereof. The 2d Battalion consolidated positions in an assembly area at SCHIBERG (Q7649) at the close of the period. The 3d Battalion was relieved at 2015 in position by elements of the 71st Infantry Division and moved to an assembly area near (Q7750).

(2) The 398th Infantry attacked at 0600. The 1st Battalion moved from positions near (Q7752) and (Q7853) in a column of companies, captured FORT OTTERBIEL (Q7852) by 0645, PETITE OTTERBIEL by 0840, and GRAND OTTERBIEL by 1205. Strong mortar, artillery, automatic weapons and small arms fire was encountered during the attack on these forts. Strong sniper fire was received in GRAND OTTER-

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BIEL all during the day. At the close of the period the battalion held positions at (Q7852) and (Q7851). The 2d Battalion attacked from positions near (Q7651) and (Q7752) and captured the forts near RAMSTEIN (Q7751) by 0620 and then attacked toward BITCHE in conjunction with the 3d Battalion. Resistance was very light consisting principally of small arms and sniper fire and moderate harassing artillery and mortar fire, by 1145 the northern part of BITCHE was cleared. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion had consolidated its positions and outposted the town. The 3d Battalion moved at 0900 from an assembly area near (Q7350) and assisted the 2d Battalion in clearing BITCHE. Contact was made with the enemy at 1300 at which time small arms and direct fire from self-propelled guns was received from the west and northern end of CAMP de BITCHE. Strong enemy mortar, artillery, and small arms fire was received, but CAMP de BITCHE was cleared by 1745. Positions were consolidated by the end of the period.

(3) The 397th Infantry resumed the attack at 0600 with the 2d Battalion passing through the 1st Battalion. Moderate small arms fire was encountered in seizing the objective (Q7952). Scattered enemy artillery and rocket fire was received throughout the period. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion was organizing the objective, the 1st Battalion held the high ground near (Q7754), and the 3d Battalion continued to block to the north and northeast from positions near (Q7654).

c. The 3d Infantry Division continued the attack and advanced into GERMANY up to 7 kilometers. Preparations were made to penetrate the SIEGFRIED LINE. Hostile artillery fire was moderate; self-propelled artillery fire fell near NEU ALTHEIM (Q6963).

(1) The 15th Infantry moved from division reserve and advanced in the sector of the 30th Infantry. ORNERSVILLER (Q7059), VOLMUNSTER (Q7258), ESCHVILLER (Q7459), BRENSCHEIBACH (Q7061), and JOUTZVILLER (Q7461) were captured. Moderate enemy resistance consisted principally of small arms fire. At the close of the period the 3d Battalion was near (Q7660), the 2d Battalion was near (Q7360), and the 1st Battalion held the line: (Q7361) - (Q7261).

(2) The 7th Infantry continued the attack and captured UTWEILER (Q6858), RIESWEILER (Q6860), PEPPENKUM (Q6760), IEDELSHEIM (Q6660), and the ridge overlooking ALTHEIM (Q6963) against moderate small arms and automatic weapons fire. As the period closed, the regiment was preparing to breach the SIEGFRIED LINE with the 3d Battalion near (Q7162), the 1st Battalion near (Q6762), and the 2d Battalion in reserve near (Q6858).

(3) The 30th Infantry continued the attack to the northeast and captured DOLLENBACH (Q7256), NOUSSEVILLER (Q7356), and WEISKIRCH (Q7136) without difficulty. Only moderate enemy small arms and artillery fire was received by advancing elements. The regiment was then pinched out by the 15th Infantry and reverted to division reserve and assembled at VOLMUNSTER. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion moved to the woods near (Q6961) to form a counterattack force for the 7th Infantry.

d. The 45th Infantry Division continued to attack in its zone and made satisfactory progress against moderate resistance. Hostile artillery fire was moderate and of a harassing nature. Self-propelled fire was received near SEYWEILER (Q6662) and near ASSWEILER (Q6068).

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(1) The 157th Infantry continued its attack at daylight against moderate small arms fire and captured OBERGAILSBACH (Q6258) and NEIDERGAILSBACH (Q6159). The regiment then moved to the right in its zone to make room for the attack of the 179th Infantry. The woods near (Q6663) were cleared and SEYDLEINER was captured against moderate small arms and self-propelled artillery fire. The period ended with the 2d Battalion near (Q6462), continuing the attack and meeting only slight small arms fire. The 1st Battalion was near (Q6562) and the 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q6055).

(2) The 157th and 180th Infantry Regiments moved to the right and left, respectively, and the 179th Infantry attacked through the gap thus formed. The 2d Battalion cleared WALSHEIM (Q6361) and halted for the night 1 kilometer north of the town. The 1st Battalion cleared BLIESBRUCK (Q5957) and REINHEIM (Q5960) against stubborn resistance consisting of small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire. GERSHEIM (Q6161) was taken with little difficulty and the advance continued toward HERBITZHEIM (Q6263). At the close of the period the 1st Battalion reached a point near (Q6162) abreast of the 2d Battalion. The 3d Battalion was in regimental reserve near (Q5853).

(3) The 180th Infantry attacked at daylight with the 1st and 2d Battalions abreast and advanced rapidly against moderate small arms resistance. BEBELSHEIM (Q5863), RUBENHEIM (Q6164), WITERSHEIM (Q5865), EHLINGEN (Q6659), and BALLWEILER (Q6167) were seized in rapid succession against hostile light and intermittent opposition. Enemy tanks were met in ASSWILLER (Q6068) and a sharp engagement ensued before the enemy was forced to retreat to BLIESINGEN (Q6169). At the close of the period, road blocks were established to hold the enemy in BIESINGEN until the town could be assaulted the following day. As the period closed the 1st Battalion was near (Q6268), the 2d Battalion was near (Q6069), and the 3d Battalion was near (Q5865).

e. The 44th Infantry Division passed to the control of the Seventh Army at 0001.

(1) RCT 71 closed in an assembly area near SULTZHEIM (Q5351) at 1620.

(2) RCT 324 closed in an assembly area near HAMBACH (Q4951) at 1120.

(3) RCT 114 closed in an assembly area near WITTRING (Q5650) at 1245.

f. The 6th Armored Division continued its training and maintenance program near VIC-SUR-SEILLE (Q1120). Liaison with the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions was continued.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group) continued to advance to the northeast and to cover the right flank of the 3d Infantry Division. Contact was maintained with the 3d and 100th Infantry Divisions.

(1) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, assisted by elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, attacked and captured BRIEDENBACH (Q7759) by 1825 against moderate small arms and mortar fire. The town was cleared and outposted by the end of the period.

(2) Elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron assisted elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in the capture of

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BRIEDENBACH. Other elements outposted LINGELSHOFEN (Q7556).

h. XV Corps Artillery fired 7 counterbattery missions during the day. Twenty-seven observed and 195 unobserved missions were fired on enemy vehicles, personnel, and tanks along the Corps front. During the evening prior to 1815, 9 TOTs were fired in the vicinity of BRIEDENBACH (Q7759) and on suspected enemy assembly areas near HORNBAACH (Q7365). In addition, a counterbattery program on 15 enemy batteries was fired throughout the night.

i. XV Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery reported no enemy aircraft over the Corps zone during the period. A total of three missions was fired in field artillery roles. Searchlights were in action during the night in support of the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions.

j. XV Corps Engineers completed the construction of a TS Bailey Bridge in FRAUENBERG (Q5559) at 1200. By the same hour a Bailey Bridge near SARRALBE (Q4845) was removed.

k. XII Tactical Air Force flew 528 fighter bomber and 258 medium bomber sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. One hundred twenty aircraft flew missions in close support of the 100th Infantry Division, bombing CAMP de BITCHE, motor transport and horse drawn transport near (Q8353), (Q8455), (Q8357), and (Q8761), and 20 tanks in an area east of CAMP de BITCHE. Seventy-two aircraft flew missions in close support of the 3d Infantry Division bombing and strafing flak wagons and horse drawn vehicles near NEU ALTHEIM (Q6763) and bombing DIETRICHINGEN (Q7665), MAUSCHBACH (Q7565), HORNBAACH (Q7365), ALTHORNBAACH (Q7367) and MITTELBAACH (Q7168). One hundred twenty aircraft flew missions in close support of the 45th Infantry Division. Motor transport and trucks near (Q6561), heavy anti-aircraft positions near (Q6867), (Q6161), (Q5863), (Q5966) and (Q6571), and 5 tanks near SEETBACH (Q6070) were bombed. Long range fighters bombed and strafed motor transport, horse drawn vehicles, tanks, ammunition and supply dumps, marshalling yards, and rolling stock on the XV Corps front with excellent results. Medium bombers bombed the area (Q7570) in support of the 3d Infantry Division and the area (Q6970) in support of the 45th Infantry Division.

l. Six hundred eighty prisoners were captured in the XV Corps zone during the period: the 3d Infantry Division captured 219, the 44th Infantry Division 12, the 45th Infantry Division 267, and the 100th Infantry Division 182.

17. 17 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued its attack to the north against stiffening enemy resistance. Elements in the left portion of the Corps zone penetrated the SIEGFRIED LINE. Hostile artillery harassed forward elements of the attacking divisions from positions in the SIEGFRIED LINE. Most of the concentrations reported were strong and included some large caliber shells.

Operations Instructions 142 XV Corps, dated 1800, 17 March, directed the 6th Armored Division to move commencing 0700, 18 March from the vicinity of VIC-SUR-SEILLE (Q1120) to the vicinity of WITTLING (Q5650) - SARRE-UNION (Q5238)-BUTTEN (Q6241) as prescribed in Field Order 22, XV Corps.

a. The 71st Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. In com-

pliance with Operations Instructions No 141 XV Corps, elements of the division relieved elements of the 100th Infantry Division in the vicinity of BITCHE (Q7750) and CAMP de BITCHE (Q8150). Patrols pushed forward against light opposition and gained control of roads forward of front line positions. No hostile artillery fire was received in the division sector.

(1) The 5th Infantry established an OPLR north of the LIEBERG (Q7345)-MOUTERHOUSE (Q7942) road on the Corps right boundary. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7441) - (Q7444). The 3d Battalion was in regimental reserve at ST LOUIS les BITCHE (Q7243) alerted for movement on one hour's notice.

(2) The 66th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. A strong OPLR was established east of the LIEBERG-BITCHE road. The 3d, 2d, and 1st Battalions in that order held the line: (Q7444) - (Q7345).

(3) The 14th Infantry improved its defensive positions near BITCHE and CAMP de BITCHE. Relief of elements of the 100th Infantry Division in the vicinity of BITCHE and CAMP de BITCHE was completed during the period without incident. Routine patrolling continued. As the period closed the 1st Battalion was near (Q7648), the 2d Battalion was near (Q7950), and the 3d Battalion was near (Q8250).

b. The 100th Infantry Division continued its attack to the north with two regiments in the attacking echelon concurrently with mopping up the BITCHE area. Steady progress was made against moderate opposition. Hostile artillery fire continued to be moderate in intensity.

(1) The 398th Infantry continued its attack to clear the BITCHE area. The 1st Battalion cleared FORT OTTERBIELE (Q7851) of snipers. Patrols maintained close contact with units on the flanks. The 2d Battalion outposted BITCHE after clearing the town. At 0730 elements of the 397th Infantry were relieved in position near (Q7953) by elements of the 2d Battalion. The 3d Battalion cleared and outposted CAMP de BITCHE. By 1015 elements of the 71st Infantry Division completed the relief of elements of the 3d Battalion near CAMP de BITCHE. Upon relief the 3d Battalion moved to an assembly area near BITCHE and at 1430 moved to positions in the vicinity of HASPELSCHIEDT (Q8154) on the line: (Q7953) - (Q8161) with the mission of protecting the Corps right (east) flank.

(2) The 399th Infantry attacked at 0935 to seize the high ground: LIEBERSCHIEDT SCHWEIX (Q8358) - ROEPVILLER (Q8555) with the 3d Battalion leading. Elements reached HANVILLER (Q7956) at 1055 and the battalion objective at 1240 against moderate small arms resistance. The 1st Battalion by 1610 seized ROEPVILLER and the high ground near (Q8557). Only moderate harassing artillery fire and light small arms fire opposed the advance. The 2d Battalion moved to an assembly area near BITCHE by 1530 and later closed in an assembly area near (Q8357) by 2130. As the period closed the 1st Battalion was near (Q8456) and the 3d Battalion near (Q8258).

(3) At 0900 the 1st and 3d Battalions of the 397th Infantry resumed the attack to seize the high ground north and northeast of BREIDENBACH (Q7756). Against light small arms opposition the 1st and 3d Battalions seized BREIDENBACH and the high ground to the southeast of the town. The 1st Battalion continued its attack, secured WALDHAUSEN (Q8080) and WALSCHBRONN (Q8161) against only moderate small arms fire, and reached positions near (Q8181) by the close of

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the period. The 3d Battalion ~~continued its advance~~ and by the end of the period cleared DORST (Q7961), opposed only by occasional sniper fire. The 2d Battalion, upon being relieved by elements of the 398th Infantry, reverted to regimental reserve and by the end of the period closed into an assembly area near WALDHAUSEN. Light artillery, mortar, and small arms fire was received throughout the regimental zone during the day.

c. The 3d Infantry Division continued its aggressive attack and during the early hours of the period cleared the approaches to the SIEGFRIED LINE. Reconnaissance was conducted and plans were completed for an attack through that line. Hostile artillery from positions in the SIEGFRIED LINE harassed advancing elements. BIESENGEN (Q6569) and the area near (Q6968) was shelled by heavy caliber artillery.

(1) The 15th Infantry continued its attack. The 3d Battalion advanced north from (Q7664) and by the close of the period had reached the vicinity of (Q7569); while the 2d Battalion captured DIETRICHINGEN (Q7665) and HORNBAACH (Q7666) and reached positions near (Q7766) by the close of the day. Enemy resistance throughout the regimental zone consisted principally of moderate scattered small arms fire and moderate sporadic artillery fire.

(2) The 7th Infantry attacked with the 1st and 3d Battalions. The 1st Battalion advanced from positions near (Q6864), cleared ALTHEIM (Q6963), and reached positions near (Q7066) against scattered enemy small arms resistance. The 3d Battalion experienced little difficulty in occupying positions near (Q7164) and (Q7264), but patrols encountered intense small arms and automatic weapons fire and sporadic artillery fire in reaching the vicinity of (Q7168). The 2d Battalion remained in reserve near (Q6861).

(3) The 30th Infantry, less the 2d Battalion, moved from the vicinity of VOLMUNSTER (Q7258) to a forward assembly area near (Q7466). The 2d Battalion remained in regimental reserve near (Q6961).

d. The 45th Infantry Division continued its attack against strong enemy resistance. Moderate progress was made against the SIEGFRIED LINE defenses. Light hostile harassing artillery fires were reported in the sector late in the period.

(1) The 157th Infantry continued its attack. The 3d Battalion detrucked near SEYWEILER (Q6662) at 0500 and attacked toward BOCKWEILER (Q6764). At 0700 the 1st Battalion attacked through the 3d Battalion. BOCKWEILER was occupied without resistance. An attempt to occupy HENGSEBACH (Q6768) was repulsed by heavy hostile small arms fire reinforced by artillery, mortar, and automatic weapons fire from the hill at (Q7069). Elements of the 1st Battalion were in position near (Q6969) as the period closed. The 2d Battalion followed the 1st Battalion and closed in the woods near (Q6868) by 1500. Strong hostile artillery fire caused considerable casualties in the battalion area. At 1930 elements attacked HENGSEBACH and by 2200 had captured the town. The advance progressed against light sniper fire until the 1st Battalion passed through the 3d Battalion at 0800. The 3d Battalion then reverted to regimental reserve near (Q6665).

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(2) The 179th Infantry resumed its attack at 0600. The 1st Battalion occupied WALLERSHEIM (Q6265), BLICKWEILER (Q6468), and advanced to the vicinity of (Q6570). Only light scattered sniper and sporadic artillery fire was received on attacking elements. The 2d Battalion advanced, seized BLIESDAHEIM (Q6264), and captured BRIEFURT (Q6466) against light small arms resistance. The high ground near (Q6666) was occupied shortly thereafter. MILBACH (Q6569) was taken without opposition by 1150 and positions on the high ground near (Q6570) were occupied before the close of the day. The 3d Battalion, in regimental reserve, moved from near (Q6055) to the vicinity of BLICKWEILER (Q6468).

(3) The 180th Infantry continued its attack at 0800 with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion reached BLIESINGEN (Q6169) at 0820, encountered moderately strong artillery and small arms fire, but cleared the town by 0900. The attack was continued to the vicinity of (Q6170) where heavy automatic weapons fire from pillboxes forced a withdrawal by some elements of the battalion to BLIESINGEN. Other elements advanced slowly against intense enemy machine gun fire supported by artillery and mortar fire and reached the edge of ALSCHBACH (Q6371) by 1330. At that point, heavy enemy machine gun, mortar, self-propelled and artillery fire forced a withdrawal to the line: (Q6270) - (Q6269). Still other elements of the 3d Battalion reached (Q6470) after a short fire fight in which the enemy was forced to withdraw. The 2d Battalion cleared SEIBACH (Q6070) by 0830 without difficulty. Elements advanced to the vicinity of (Q6069) where the enemy, from pillboxes and strongly entrenched positions, halted the progress with automatic weapons and mortar fire. Heavy fighting ensued and two pillboxes were captured. An attempt to outflank the enemy positions drew heavy small arms and mortar fire. At the close of the day elements were still engaged in a stiff fire fight at this point, elements of the 1st Battalion captured BALLWEILER (Q6267) without opposition while other elements held positions in WICKLINGER (Q6268). A road block was established at (Q6369). An enemy tank attempting to approach the road block was destroyed by a mine.

e. The 6th Armored Division continued its training and maintenance program in the vicinity of VIC-SUR-SEILLE (Q1120). Preparations were made to displace to forward assembly areas in compliance with Operations Instructions No 142 XV Corps issued at 1800, 17 March. Liaison with the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions was continued.

f. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to the Sixth Army Group) continued its attack to the north and to the east and to cover the 3d Infantry Division right flank.

(1) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied GROS STEINHAUSEN (Q7965) and ROLBING (Q7863) without opposition.

(2) Elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron found WALDHAUSEN (Q8060) clear, but encountered small arms fire in occupying WALSCHBRONN (Q8161). Other elements outposted LUTTELSCHEIM (Q7556) and BRIEDENBACH (Q7759).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 23 counterbattery missions in addition to a counterbattery program on 28 enemy batteries which was fired for the 3d Infantry Division. Twelve observed and 22 unobserved missions were fired on enemy personnel and vehicles along the Corps front. During the night a harassing program was fired on targets in the ZWIEBRUCKEN (Q7273) area and a 30 minute

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preparation for the 3d Infantry Division's attack.

h. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road and bridge maintenance in the Corps area.

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 354 sorties during the period. Of these, 216 sorties were in support of XV Corps. Twenty-four sorties were flown in close support of the 100th Infantry Division and 12 aircraft bombed GERSBACH (Q8767) and motor transport in TRULBEN (Q8660). Seventy-two sorties were flown in close support of the 3d Infantry Division; 12 aircraft bombed CONTWIG (Q7772) and 60 aircraft bombed AUERBACH (Q7775) and the woods to the southeast which contained motor transport, tanks, and troops; five tanks were reported destroyed. Sixty sorties were flown in close support of the 45th Infantry Division; 24 aircraft bombed LAUTAKIRCHEN (Q6572), 12 aircraft bombed FINOD (Q7074) and SCHWARTZBACH (Q6275), and 12 aircraft bombed and destroyed 3 motor transport near (Q7074). On long range missions: 48 aircraft bombed troop concentrations near (Q7772) and (Q7575) with the aid of radar and 12 aircraft bombed GLEN MUNCH-WEILER (Q7997) with the aid of radar.

j. Three hundred eighteen prisoners were captured in the XV Corps zone during the period: Corps Troops captured 50, the 3d Infantry Division 52, the 45th Infantry Division 96, the 71st Infantry Division 26, and the 100th Infantry Division 94.

18. 18 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued its attack to breach the SIEGFRIED LINE against very strong resistance. The 3d Infantry Division succeeded in penetrating the first three rows of the SIEGFRIED LINE "tetrahedra" in its zone. During the period the enemy intensified his artillery activity from his new positions behind the SIEGFRIED LINE. Towns and communication centers were harassed by strong enemy artillery concentrations from varied calibers and types of guns. Moderate enemy self-propelled and tank fire harassed advancing elements.

Operations Instructions No 143 XV Corps dated 1030, 18 March, directed the 71st Infantry Division to relieve without delay elements of the 100th Infantry Division along the general line: (Q7960) - (Q7966) - (Q7673) and to prepare to relieve front line elements of the 100th Infantry Division within the zone of the 100th Infantry Division along the line: (Q7673) - (Q7075) - (Q6676) on 19 March. The 71st Infantry was directed to continue to hold the CAMP de BITCHE (Q8150) BITCHE (Q7750) area.

The 100th Infantry Division, upon completion of its relief by the 71st Infantry Division on 18-19 March, was directed to assemble in Corps reserve in the area: (Q6669) - (Q7564) - (Q8253) - (Q6760). The division on Corps order was to pass through the SIEGFRIED LINE in the zone of either the 3d or 45th Infantry Division or to move to either the northeast or northwest.

Operations Instructions No 144 XV Corps dated 1200, 18 March, directed the 6th Armored Division, after closing in the area: WITTRING (Q5650) - SARRE UNION (Q5238) - BUTTEN (Q6241) as directed in Operations Instructions No 142 XV Corps, to prepare for movement on Corps order, on three hour notice, to pass through either the 3d or 45th Infantry Divisions, or both, and to execute

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exploitation as directed in Field Order 22 XV Corps (by-pass KAISERLAUTERN (R0194), secure exits to the RHINE Plain at BAD DÜRKHEIM (R3195), GRUNSTADT (M3107), and DREISEN (R2011), and prepare to continue a rapid advance to the RHINE River.

A field message dated 1730, 18 March, to the Commanding General 71st Infantry Division and to the Commanding General 100th Infantry Division confirmed telephone instructions of the Commanding General XV Corps suspending until further orders the relief of elements of the 100th Infantry Division in its zone by elements of the 71st Infantry Division on 19 March. (8)

A field message to the Commanding General 100th Infantry Division from the Commanding General XV Corps, dated 2315, 18 March, directed the Commanding General 100th Infantry Division to extend the left (west) flank of the 100th Infantry Division without delay to include DIETRICHINGEN (Q7665); contact was to be maintained with the 3d Infantry Division. The 71st Infantry Division was directed to be prepared to relieve the 100th Infantry Division on the new front on Corps order. (9).

a. The 71st Infantry Division continued to protect the Corps right (east) flank. Elements of the division relieved elements of the 100th Infantry Division in position as directed by Operations Instructions No 143 XV Corps.

(1) The 66th Infantry continued its defensive mission. Elements relieved the 5th Infantry in position by 1800. At the close of the period the 3d, 1st, and 2d Battalions held the line: (Q7243) - (Q7848).

(2) The 14th Infantry maintained its positions and secured the area in the vicinity of BITCHE (Q7750) and CAMP de BITCHE (Q8151). Elements relieved the 398th Infantry 100th Infantry Division in position by 2030. At the close of the period the 2d, 3d, and 1st Battalions in that order held the line: (Q7850) - (Q8150) - (Q8151) - (Q8453) - (Q8455).

(3) During the early part of the period the 5th Infantry maintained its defensive positions in the right portion of the Division zone. Upon being relieved at 1800 in position by the 66th Infantry, the 5th Infantry moved north of BITCHE, and by 2115 elements had relieved elements of the 399th Infantry 100th Infantry Division in position. At the close of the period, the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q8455) - (Q8458). The 2d Battalion occupied reserve positions near (Q8257).

b. The 100th Infantry Division began its withdrawal from front line positions as directed in Operations Instructions No 143 XV Corps. Two regiments were relieved in position by elements of the 71st Infantry Division. The third regiment held its positions and patrolled to its front. Hostile artillery fire was moderate.

(1) The 399th Infantry organized its positions during the early part of the period. Patrols sent into HILST (Q8458) at 1025 found it unoccupied. Upon relief at 2040 by elements of the 5th Infantry, 71st Infantry Division, the 1st Battalion moved and closed at 2335 into an assembly area near (Q7758). Upon relief at 2015 in position by elements of the 71st Infantry Division, the 3d Battalion closed at 2300 into an assembly area near (Q7958). The 2d Battalion, which had been in reserve, closed into an assembly area near (Q7859) at 1815.

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(2) The 397th Infantry consolidated and adjusted positions seized during the previous period. Aggressive patrolling continued, but no physical contact with the enemy occurred. Scattered mortar and artillery fire fell in the regimental sector throughout the period. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7458) - (Q7362). The 2d Battalion remained in reserve near (Q8060).

(3) The 398th Infantry, less the 3d Battalion, upon relief by elements of the 71st Infantry Division moved to assembly areas in the vicinity of LINGEL-SHEIM (Q7656) - NOUSSEVILLER (Q7356) and closed by 1700. The 3d Battalion remained in position and held the line: (Q8151) - HASPELSCHIEDT (Q8154), inclusive, until relieved in position at 2030 by elements of the 71st Infantry Division. The 3d Battalion then moved to an assembly area near (Q7958) closing as the period ended.

c. The 3d Infantry Division launched an attack against the SIEGFRIED LINE. Three rows of tetrahedra were penetrated in one regimental sector. Strong harassing fire from enemy artillery fell on advancing elements. VOLMUNSTER (Q7258) and DIETRICHINGEN (Q7665) received strong concentrations.

(1) At the beginning of the period the 15th Infantry continued its probing efforts in preparation for an attack on the SIEGFRIED LINE. The enemy reacted to our reconnaissance patrols with small arms, machine gun, self-propelled, and mortar fire. The attack by the 1st and 3d Battalions was launched at 0545. The attack succeeded in penetrating the 1st row of tetrahedra near (Q7569). Enemy resistance was intense. Small arms, machine gun, mortar, self-propelled, and artillery fire harassed the advancing troops. Fighting was slow and methodical. The enemy had to be evicted position by position from entrenchments and pillboxes protected by mines, tactical wire, and other obstacles. As the period closed the 1st Battalion was near (Q7570), the 3d Battalion near (Q7768), and the 2d Battalion was continuing the attack in the vicinity of (Q7666).

(2) The 7th Infantry closed at 0300 in an assembly area near (Q7467) and at 0545 launched an attack against the SIEGFRIED LINE. Enemy resistance consisted of the same type of defensive measures as used against the 15th Infantry and with equal intensity. At the end of the period the regiment had successfully penetrated three rows of tetrahedra with the 1st Battalion near (Q7470), the 3d Battalion near (Q7468), and the 2d Battalion near (Q7466).

(3) The 30th Infantry, in division reserve, prepared to exploit the penetrations in the SIEGFRIED LINE made by the 7th and 15th Infantry Regiments. The 2d Battalion was near (Q7369) and the 1st and 3d Battalions near (Q7264).

d. The 45th Infantry Division continued its assault against the SIEGFRIED LINE against strong enemy resistance. Numerous fortified positions were captured. Hostile artillery fire falling on troops assaulting the SIEGFRIED LINE was strong.

(1) The 157th Infantry maintained its positions during the first half of the period and patrolled to the front in an effort to locate enemy positions. At 1300 the attack was resumed by the 1st and 2d Battalions. The

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enemy resisted strongly with heavy small arms, automatic weapons, mortar, and machine gun fire. By the end of the period the 1st Battalion had reached positions near (Q6970) and (Q6979) and the 2d Battalion had reached positions near (Q7069) and (Q6970). The 3d Battalion closed into positions near (Q6969) and prepared to pass through the positions of the 1st Battalion during the next day.

(2) The 1st and 2d Battalions 179th Infantry resumed the attack at 0630 and made moderate progress against the determined enemy resistance which typified the enemy defense of the SIEGFRIED LINE. After fierce fighting the 1st Battalion cleared BLIESCASTEL (Q6571) and at the close of the period elements had reached (Q6571) and (Q6471). The 2d Battalion met stiff resistance in WEBERHEIM (Q6671) but advanced to the northern edge of the town. The enemy contested every offensive move with strong small arms, automatic weapons, mortar, and artillery fire from his fortified positions. The 3d Battalion remained in an assembly area near (Q6469).

(3) The 180th Infantry continued the attack with the 2d and 3d Battalions advancing against strong resistance. The 2d Battalion cleared the fortifications near (Q6171) and was attacking near (Q6272) at the close of the period. Elements of the 3d Battalion which attacked ALSCHBACH (Q6471) encountered heavy automatic weapons and self-propelled fire which caused them to withdraw. Other elements captured the high ground at (Q6471) and (Q6371) against strong resistance. At the close of the period the attack on ALSCHBACH was being continued. The 1st Battalion was in reserve near (Q5971).

e. The 6th Armored Division displaced from its assembly area near VIC-SUR-SEILLE (Q1120) to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of OERLINGEN (Q5644). Liaison with the 3d and 45th Infantry Division was maintained.

(1) CCA closed in an assembly area near KALHAUSEN (Q5747) before 1700.

(2) CCB closed in an assembly area near DEHLINGEN (Q6042) at 1415.

(3) CCR closed in an assembly area near VOELLERDINGEN (Q5539) at 1630.

f. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group) continued its attack to the north and to the east on its mission of covering the right (east) flank of the Corps and the 3d Infantry Division. One enemy counterattack was repulsed without loss of ground. Strong hostile artillery fire fell on KLEINSTEINHAUSEN (Q8066).

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (less Troop "B" attached to the Sixth Army Group) continued its attack. Troop "C" seized BOTTENBACH (Q8264) at 1210 against moderate small arms fire. At 2000 the enemy counter-attacked in company strength supported by artillery fire. Troop "C" withdrew to the high ground west of BOTTENBACH. Strong friendly artillery fire repulsed the attack and Troop "C" reoccupied the town at 2400. Troop "A" held positions near (Q7860).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued its attack. Elements cleared KLEIN STEINHAUSEN by 1400 against light small arms fire. Hostile artillery fire harassed the town for the remainder of the period. At the close of the period other elements entered BOTTENBACH in conjunction with elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron.

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f. XV Corps Artillery fired 42 counterbattery missions including a partial counterbattery program on 28 enemy batteries. Two enemy strong points and 4 machine gun positions in the SIEGFRIED LINE defenses were engaged. Forty-one observed and 77 unobserved harassing missions were fired on troops, vehicles, and pillboxes in the SIEGFRIED LINE.

g. XV Corps Engineers continued their program of road and bridge maintenance. Numerous mines, road blocks, and demolitions in the Corps zone were removed.

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 984 sorties during the period. Of them 456 sorties were in support of XV Corps. Three hundred forty-eight sorties were flown in close support of the divisions. Thirty-six sorties were flown in close support of the 100th Infantry Division; 24 aircraft bombed TRUBEN (Q8660) which contained tanks, motor transport, troops, and large artillery guns; 12 aircraft bombed WINNINGEN (Q8662) and large artillery guns in that vicinity. One hundred ninety-two sorties were flown in close support of the 3d Infantry Division; 60 aircraft bombed CONTWIG (Q7872) which contained tanks, motor transport, and troops; 132 aircraft bombed tanks, troops and horse drawn transport with excellent results in the area north, northeast, and southeast of ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7372). One hundred twenty sorties were flown in close support of the 45th Infantry Division; 24 aircraft bombed NIEDER AURZBACH (Q6172); 12 aircraft bombed LAUTZKIRCHEN; 24 aircraft bombed the woods near (Q7279) which contained tanks and motor transport; 60 aircraft bombed motor transport and tanks at HOMBERG (Q7180). One hundred eight long range missions were flown. Rolling stock, tanks, and motor transports were bombed in the vicinity of KAISERLAUTERN with excellent results.

i. Two hundred seventeen prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: the 3d Infantry Division captured 41, the 45th Infantry Division 144, and the 100th Infantry Division 32.

19. 19 MARCH 1945:

XV Corps continued to penetrate the SIEGFRIED LINE against resistance varying from intense to moderate. Hostile artillery activity consisted principally of large concentrations with the bulk of it landing in the center of the Corps sector. Heavy enemy rocket fire fell in the assault division zones.

Operations Instructions No. 145 XV Corps, dated 1530, 19 March, confirmed oral order Commanding General XV Corps and directed in substance that:

Effective at once one combat command of the 6th Armored Division be attached to XXI Corps at SARREGUEMINES (Q5157). On Army order the combat command was to revert to XV Corps in the vicinity of HOMBERG (Q7180). (Oral orders, Commanding General Seventh Army, 19 March.)

The 100th Infantry Division relieve elements of the 106th Cavalry Group in the area: (Q8265) - (Q8066) on the night of 19-20 March; command of the sector pass to the Commanding General 100th Infantry Division upon completion of its relief.

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The 106th Cavalry Group, upon relief by elements of the 100th Infantry Division in the aforementioned area, assemble in Corps reserve in the general area: (Q7964) - (Q7664) - (Q7460).

a. The 71st Infantry Division continued its defensive mission, of holding BITCHE (Q7750) and CAMP de BITCHE (Q8150) and protecting the Corps right (east) flank. Patrols maintained contact with units on the flanks but no contact with the enemy occurred. Hostile artillery fire continued moderate.

(1) The 66th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. The OPIR between LEMBERG (Q7445) and BITCHE, was maintained. The 3d, 1st, and 2d Battalion from right to left held the line: (Q7243) - (Q7848).

(2) The 14th Infantry maintained its defensive positions of the previous period without change. Contact was maintained with elements of the VI Corps on the right. The 2d, 3d, and 1st Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q7850) - (Q8150) - (Q8151) - (Q8453) - (Q8455).

(3) The 5th Infantry continued its defensive mission along the general line: ROPPEVILLER (Q8456) - WALSCHBRONN (Q8261). Contact was maintained with the 100th Infantry Division on the left and the 42d Infantry Division (VI Corps) on the right. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left occupied forward positions. The 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q8257).

b. The 100th Infantry Division maintained its positions. The 399th Infantry extended and protected the division left flank to DIETRICHINGEN (Q7665). Other elements of the division relieved elements of the 106th Cavalry Group in position by the close of the period. Enemy activity consisted solely of harassing artillery fire on the towns of GROS TEINHAUSEN (Q7965), KLEIN STEINHAUSEN (Q8066), BOTTENBACH (Q8265), and REIDELBERG (Q7964).

(1) The 397th Infantry adjusted and improved its positions. The 1st and 2d Battalions 397th Infantry relieved elements of the 106th Cavalry Group in position by 2400. WALSCHBRONN (Q8161) received on moderate concentration of hostile artillery fire. At the close of the period the 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the general line: (Q8160) - (Q8264) - (Q8066) - (Q7964).

(2) The 399th Infantry conducted orientation instructions in assembly areas. The 2d Battalion at 0615 closed in defensive positions along the general line: DIETRICHINGEN (Q7655) - REIDELBERG (Q7904) in order to extend the left flank of the division and to block any probable enemy thrust from the northeast. The 3d Battalion remained at (Q7948) and the 1st Battalion remained near (Q7758).

(3) The 398th Infantry conducted special assault training in assembly areas. The 3d Battalion closed into an assembly area near SCHORBACH (Q7653) by 0300. The 1st and 2d Battalions were in the LINGELSHEDD (Q7556) - NOUSSEVILLER (Q7356) area.

c. The 3d Infantry Division continued its attack against the SIEGFRIED LINE with less opposition in the center than that of the previous period. Breaches were made in the main line of fixed defenses. Moderate hostile artillery and rocket fire fell in the zone throughout the period.

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(1) The 15th Infantry renewed its assault on the SIEGFRIED LINE and by the close of the period had succeeded in penetrating the fortifications to a point near (Q7570). Moderate hostile resistance, which consisted principally of small arms and automatic weapons fire, was encountered. At the close of the period the 3d Battalion was near (Q7667) and the 1st and 2d Battalions were near (Q7670).

(2) At 0001 the enemy launched a local counterattack of unreported strength against positions of the 7th Infantry near (Q7569) but it was easily repulsed by small arms and artillery fire. At daylight the attack by the 7th Infantry was continued with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. Positions near (Q7471) - (Q7571) were reached by the close of the period. The 2d Battalion was in reserve near (Q7569).

(3) The 30th Infantry moved to forward assembly positions and at 0545 launched an attack with the 2d and 1st Battalions against enemy defensive position. Good progress was made through tetrahedra, pillboxes, and trenches against strong small arms and automatic weapons fire and moderate artillery fire. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left held the line: (Q7370) - (Q7170). The 3d Battalion was in reserve near (Q7365).

d. The 45th Infantry Division continued its assault on the SIEGFRIED LINE fortifications against strong resistance and captured numerous pillboxes and prisoners. Hostile artillery fire was moderate; sporadic rocket fire fell in the division zone.

(1) The 157th Infantry resumed its attack on the SIEGFRIED LINE. At 0600 a small enemy counterattack of unreported strength on 1st Battalions position near (Q6970) was repulsed by small arms and artillery fire without loss of positions. At 0630 the attack was resumed with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion, which passed through 1st Battalion positions, on the left. Steady progress was made against strong machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire. By 1545 WATTWEILER (Q6970) was cleared against intense enemy resistance. Lanes were cleared through the tetrahedra, and tank ditches were filled to permit the passage of supporting armor. Hostile artillery fire was strong throughout the period. As the period closed the 2d Battalion was near (Q7070) and the 3d Battalion was near (Q6970). The 1st Battalion remained in reserve near (Q6969).

(2) The 179th Infantry continued its attack at daylight. Because enemy infiltrated into WEBENHEIM (Q6671) during the night, elements of the 2d Battalion were forced to retake the town. The enemy resisted strongly with fierce machine gun, self-propelled, mortar, and artillery fire, but the town was almost completely recaptured by the end of the period. The 1st Battalion completed mopping up BLIESKASTEL and its numerous snipers. The 3d Battalion continued the attack to the north and reduced numerous pillboxes against strong machine gun and artillery fire. At 2115 a 30 man enemy raid on positions of the 3d Battalion near (Q6471) was repulsed by small arms and mortar fire without loss of ground.

(3) The 180th Infantry continued the attack against an enemy who displayed little coordination or extensive organization and who relied chiefly on automatic weapons and mines to delay the advance. Patrols dispatched early in the period were driven back by heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire. At

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daylight the 2d and 3d Battalions resumed the attack. The 2d Battalion seized NIEDER-WURZBACH (Q8171) against strong small arms, machine gun, and mortar fire. At the close of the period a modest penetration of the southern portion of the town had been made. The 3d Battalion cleared AISCHEBRACH (Q6371), and as the period closed elements were attacking the bridges near (Q6272) and (Q6372). At 2130 an enemy counterattack in platoon strength near (Q6471) was repulsed by small arms and mortar fire. The 1st Battalion remained in reserve near (Q5969).

e. The 6th Armored Division remained in an assembly area, prepared for offensive operations. Liaison with the 3d and 45th Infantry Division was continued. One combat command was attached to XXI Corps at 1820.

(1) CCA cleared XV Corps at 1820 enroute to the XXI Corps zone as directed by Operations Instructions No. 145 XV Corps. Upon arrival in XXI Corps sector CCA was attached to the 63d Infantry Division, (XXI Corps).

(2) CCB continued training near DEHLINGEN (Q6042).

(3) CCR continued training near VOELLERDINGEN (Q5539).

f. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group) continued its mission of protecting the right (east) flank of the 3d Infantry Division until late in the period when it assembled in Corps reserve.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (less Troop "B") in Group reserve, maintained its positions during the early part of the period and later assembled in Corps reserve near (Q7763).

(2) The relief of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron by elements of the 100th Infantry Division was in progress as the period closed. Troop "B" was in position near (Q8264) and Troop "C" was in position near (Q8066). Troop "A" in GROS STEINHAUSEN, was subjected to strong concentrations of hostile artillery fire.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 67 counterbattery missions during the period. Seventy-seven observed and 123 unobserved harassing missions were fired on enemy targets along the Corps front. Eight inch howitzers fired several missions on enemy pillboxes in the SIEGFRIED LINE; one was destroyed and two were damaged. Approximately 14 missions were fired on enemy personnel and vehicular movement to the northeast in the area: ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7271) - HOMBERG (Q7180).

h. XV Corps Engineers supported the attacking divisions by repairing roads, maintaining bridges, and blasting gaps through the tetrahedra of the SIEGFRIED LINE.

j. XII Tactical Air Force flew 990 sorties. Of these 310 sorties were in support of XV Corps during the period. One hundred forty-four sorties were flown in close support of the divisions. Twelve aircraft bombed and strafed troop concentrations near (Q8075) in close support of the 100th Infantry Division. Forty-eight sorties were flown in close support of the 3d Infantry Division; the town OB-AUERBACH (Q7775) and tanks, motor transport, and horse drawn vehicles along the division front were bombed. Seventy-two sorties were flown in close support of the 45th Infantry Division; troops and pillboxes in the ZWEIBRUCKEN area were

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bombed and strafed, motor transport and tanks near (Q6771) were bombed. One hundred sixty-six sorties were flown on long range missions, 60 aircraft bombed over 300 vehicles near (Q8665), 22 aircraft bombed a camouflaged train northeast of HOMBERG, 24 aircraft bombed motor transport east of HOMBERG, and 60 aircraft bombed motor transport northeast and southeast of KAISERSLAUTERN(R0294).

k. Three hundred eighty-seven prisoners were captured in the XV Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 9, the 3d Infantry Division 98, the 45th Infantry Division 268, the 71st Infantry Division 5, and the 100th Infantry Division 7.

20. 20 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued its attack, breached the SIEGFRIED LINE, and began to exploit its success by advancing rapidly toward the RHINE River. As the SIEGFRIED LINE collapsed, many enemy gun positions were overrun and little hostile artillery activity was reported on the center and the left of the Corps front. In the right portion of the Corps zone enemy artillery activity increased as the enemy appeared to be firing surplus ammunition, preliminary to his withdrawal.

A field message to the Commanding General 100th Infantry Division, dated 0955, 20 March, directed the 100th Infantry Division, upon completion of its relief by the 71st Infantry Division, to comply with Operations Instructions No 143 XV Corps (i.e., to assemble on Corps order in Corps reserve and be prepared to pass through the SIEGFRIED LINE in the zone of either the 3d or 45th (or both) Infantry Division or to move to the northeast or northwest). (10)

A memorandum to the Commanding General 6th Armored Division, dated 20 March, directed that: first, the 6th Armored Division (less CCA) move to the area: south of 63 coordinate-east of the BLIES RIVER-west of the SCHWALB River-north of the line: OBERGAILBACH (Q6258) - RILLING (Q6555) - EPPING-URBACH (Q6957) (all exclusive); secondly, contact be maintained with the 3d Infantry Division and, after coordinating with the Commanding General 3d Infantry Division, the Commanding General 6th Armored Division recommend the time of passage of his division through the SIEGFRIED LINE and across the SCHWARZBACH River, in accordance with Field Order 22 XV Corps. (11).

Operations Instructions No 98, Seventh Army, dated 19 March, informed the Commanding General XV Corps that he would not be required to pass one infantry division to VI Corps in the vicinity of PIRMASENS (Q9065) as had been directed by Field Order 10, Seventh Army, and as announced in Field Order 22, XV Corps, dated 12 March. (12).

Operations Instructions No 146, XV Corps, dated 1430, 20 March, directed in substance that:

The 6th Armored Division (less CCA) move without delay from present assembly area to the vicinity of ZWELBRUCKEN (Q7372); CCA revert to division control upon its arrival in the HOMBURG (Q7180) area. Upon passage through the SIEGFRIED LINE the division was to comply with Field Order 22 XV Corps (by-pass KAISERLAUTERN (R0194) and secure exits to the RHINE Plain at BAD DÜRKHEIM (R3195),

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GRUNSTADT (M3107), and DREISEN (M2011) prepare to continue a rapid advance to the RHINE River).

The 3d Infantry Division, as soon as the 6th Armored Division and the 106th Cavalry Group had cleared the SCHWARTZ River, resume its advance with one motorized RCT in accordance with Field Order 22 XV Corps (continue the attack in the direction of KINDBACH (Q9090) and capture KAISERLAUTERN (R0194)). The remainder of the division was to follow rapidly, utilizing all available motor transport.

The 45th Infantry Division comply with the same instructions in its zone as for the 3d Infantry Division and to comply with Field Order 22, XV Corps (attack in the direction of WEITERBACH (Q9298), assist the 3d Infantry Division in the capture of KAISERLAUTERN by the seizure of the high ground near MORLAUTERN (R0296), and protect the Corps right flank.)

The 100th Infantry Division prepare for prompt movement to the rear of the 3d Infantry Division on Corps order on 6 hour notice.

The 71st Infantry Division continue to protect the right flank and rear of XV Corps and prepare for prompt movement on Corps order on 12 hour's notice in rear of either the 100th or 45th Infantry Division or both.

The 106th Cavalry Group follow the 6th Armored Division closely through the SIEGFRIED LINE. On passage of the line, reconnaissance was to be conducted to the east and northeast and contact maintained with the 3d Infantry Division.

Operations Instructions No 147 XV Corps, dated 2245, 20 March, in compliance with Operations Instructions No 99 Seventh Army announced the following changes in boundaries:

between XV Corps (the 45th Infantry Division) and XX Corps (Third Army): west of BUSS (SAAR) (Q3175) no change, BUSS-NEUNKIRCHEN (Q5982)-JAGERSBURG (Q7085) - RALSTEIN (Q8794) - LANGEIL (M1007) - WORIS, all to Third Army.

between XV Corps (45th Infantry Division) and XXI Corps: OMERSHEIM (Q5869) - KIRKEL (Q6376) - HOMBURG (Q7180) - JAGERSBURG (Q7085), all to XXI Corps.

between the 45th and 3d Infantry Divisions: (Q7662) - (Q7870) - (Q8075) - (Q8280) - (Q9089) - (Q9190) - (R0395) - (R0794) - (R2099) - (R4095) - (R4999).

there was no change in the XV Corps right boundary.

the 6th Armored Division was directed to remain within the new Corps boundaries with no change in mission. (13)

a. The 71st Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. The remaining elements of the 100th Infantry Division were relieved along the line: WALSCHBRUNN (Q8261) - BOTTENBACH (Q8265) KLEIN STEINHAUSEN (Q7166) - GROSS STEINHAUSEN (Q7965) DIETRICHINGEN (Q7665). Contact was established with the 3d Infantry Division. Large harassing concentrations of hostile artillery fire fell on the following towns along the division front: KLEIN STEINHAUSEN, BOTTENBACH, SCHWEYEN (Q7463), and LEIDERSCHIEDT (Q8258).

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(1) The 14th Infantry maintained its defensive positions in the BITCHE (Q7750) - CAMP de BITCHE (Q8150) area and along the general line running northward to ROPPEVILLER (Q8556). Active patrolling continued. At 2300 elements of the 3d Battalion relieved elements of the 5th Infantry along the line: ROPPEVILLER-WALSCHERONN. At the close of the period the 1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q8352) - (Q8261).

(2) The 66th Infantry continued its defensive mission until 1200. At that time elements of the 2d Battalion moved to relieve elements of the 397th Infantry (100th Infantry Division) in positions. The relief was completed by 2300 and at the close of the period the 1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions from right to left held the line: (Q8261) - (Q8265) - (Q8066) - (Q7766).

(3) During the early part of the period the 5th Infantry maintained its defensive positions. Patrols were dispatched to the north and northeast without contacting the enemy. Upon relief at 2130 by elements of the 14th Infantry, the 5th Infantry closed in an assembly area near HANVILLER (Q7956).

b. The 100th Infantry Division continued its defensive mission. The front line regiment maintained its defensive positions. The two reserve regiments commenced an assault training program in assembly areas.

(1) The 397th Infantry adjusted and improved its positions. Strong hostile artillery fire was received in the sector. At 0157 the 2d Battalion 399th Infantry was attached to the 397th Infantry and relieved elements of the 106th Cavalry Group in position. The 2d Battalion closed in an assembly area near SCHWEYEN (Q7462) at 2000. At the close of the period elements of the 71st Infantry Division were in the process of relieving the 1st and 3d Battalions and the 2d Battalion 399th Infantry. The 1st Battalion was near (Q8263), the 3d Battalion was near (Q7983), and the 2d Battalion 399th Infantry was near (Q7659).

(2) Elements of the 399th Infantry conducted assault training in reserve positions. After relieving elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Group the 2d Battalion was attached to the 397th Infantry along the general line: DIETRICHINGEN (Q7665) - RIEDELBERG (Q7904). At the close of the period the 3d Battalion was near (Q7958) and the 1st Battalion was near (Q7758).

(3) The 398th Infantry remained in its assembly areas and conducted assault training. The 3d Battalion was near SCHORBACH (Q7653) and the 1st and 2d Battalions were in the area: LIEGELSHEIM (Q7556) - NOUSSEVILLER (Q7356).

c. The 3d Infantry Division broke through the SIEGFRIED LINE defenses, captured several towns, and took many prisoners. Many hostile artillery positions were overrun during the rapid advance, and as a consequence, little artillery fire was received.

(1) The 15th Infantry continued its advance against heavy resistance from enemy small arms, mortar, and artillery fire. The intensity of the resistance decreased as the advance continued and CONTWIG (Q7772) was seized against only light, scattered opposition. Patrols were sent to the north and east but no close contact with the enemy occurred. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion was near (Q7772), the 3d Battalion was near (Q7671), and the 1st Battalion was near (Q7770).

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(2) The 30th Infantry at 0030 launched a coordinated attack to breach the SIEGFRIED LINE and to eliminate enemy resistance in its zone. After a strong artillery and mortar preparation the regiment moved rapidly forward against strong small arms and self-propelled artillery fire. Numerous pillboxes and strong points were reduced and by 0820 ZWIEBRUCKEN was captured against only scattered small arms resistance. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion was near (Q7772), the 2d Battalion was near (Q7671), and the 3d Battalion was near (Q7770). Preparations were made to follow the 6th Armored Division on Corps order.

(3) The 7th Infantry continued its attack against stubborn resistance to break the SIEGFRIED LINE. Heavy small arms fire fell on advancing troops from pillboxes and fortified positions. By the close of the period the regiment had advanced thru the strongest portion of the line with forward elements having advanced as far north as the 74th northing. Elements of the 3d Battalion were near (Q7474) while the remainder of the battalion was near (Q7368). The 1st Battalion was near (Q7372) and the 2d Battalion was near (Q7467).

d. The 45th Infantry Division breached the SIEGFRIED LINE against slight enemy resistance. Hostile artillery fire decreased as the attack progressed and had ceased entirely by the close of the period.

(1) The 157th Infantry resumed its attack at 0700 with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion occupied the high ground at (Q7173) without opposition. The attack was continued to the northeast and by the close of the period KIEBERG (Q7378) was reached against scattered small arms fire. The 3d Battalion advanced to (Q7175) without gaining close contact with the enemy. The 1st Battalion, in regimental reserve, moved to a forward assembly area near (Q7173).

(2) The 179th Infantry resumed its attack. The 2d Battalion attacked at 0630 and elements of the 1st and 3d Battalion attacked at 0700. The 2d Battalion entered HOMBURG (Q7180) against slight small arms resistance and cleared the town by 2000. Elements of the 3d Battalion advanced rapidly against scattered sniper fire, entered HOMBURG and assisted the 2d Battalion in clearing the town. Elements of the 1st Battalion occupied positions at WARSCHWEILER (Q6976) and BIERBOCK (Q6773) without opposition.

(3) The 180th Infantry continued its attack with the 2d and 3d Battalion at daylight. The 2d Battalion captured MEIDER-WURZBACH (Q6171) against light small arms fire after which it occupied positions in KIRKEL (Q6376) as regimental reserve after its capture by the 3d Battalion. The 3d Battalion advanced up the main road, captured KIRKEL against light small arms resistance, and continuing the attack, captured LEBACH (Q6679) and ALSTADT (Q6780) without opposition. At 1130 the 1st Battalion was attached to the 191st Tank Battalion for operations.

e. The 6th Armored Division passed through the 3d Infantry Division in the vicinity of ZWIEBRUCKEN and attacked to the north and northeast at 1630. All elements advanced rapidly against moderate to light resistance.

(1) COB passed through the 3d Infantry Division and attacked to the northeast in two columns. Elements advanced through WEISSERHUEL (Q7375), HORSBACH (Q7578), and KASHOFF (Q7680) without opposition and at the close of the period were cleaning out ROSENKOPE (Q7883) against strong small arms and

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anti-tank fire. CT 44 advanced against light small arms resistance through OBER-AUERBACH (Q7775), but was held up by a road block at WINTERBACH (Q8178). Efforts were being made to clear the block as the period closed.

(2) CCR followed COB's columns prepared to assist COB exploit any success achieved.

(3) CCA attached under XII Corps, but reverted to division control at 2000. One column advanced rapidly, by-passed HOLBURG, and reached VOLGELBACH (Q7786) without opposition where it remained for the balance of the period. The other column advanced rapidly against only slight small arms fire. KLEINOTT-WEILER (Q6783), JAGERSBERG (Q7085), KUBELBERG (Q7389), and SCHONEBERG (Q7490) were captured and MATZENBACH (Q8099) was reached by the close of the period.

f. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group) continued its mission.

(1) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron were relieved in position at 0525 by elements of the 2d Battalion 399th Infantry (attached to the 397th Infantry). Upon relief, elements of the squadron advanced to protect the right flank of the 3d Infantry Division and by 1830 were engaged in a sharp fire fight east of OBER-AUERBACH. The remainder of the squadron moved toward BATTWEILER (Q8075) without opposition.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in reserve near (Q8066), (Q8264), and (Q7965).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired 15 counterbattery missions, 46 observed, and 38 unobserved harassing missions against enemy targets during the period.

h. XV Corps Engineers constructed a class 40 timber trestle bridge near (Q6953); a Bailey bridge near (Q7269); a class 40 timber trestle bridge near (Q7962); and a class 40 timber trestle bridge near (Q7962). Roads throughout the Corps zone were cleared and improved.

i. The XII Tactical Air Force flew 340 sorties in support of XV Corps. Forty-eight aircraft bombed NIEDER-AUERBACH (Q7573), CONTWIG (Q7772), and NIEDERHAUSEN (Q8078) in support of the 3d Infantry Division. Twenty-four aircraft bombed and strafed gun positions, motor transport, and horse drawn vehicles in the KIRKEL and HOLBURG areas in close support of the 45th Infantry Division. The remainder of the aircraft bombed and strafed motor traffic of all types east of HOLBURG and ZWELBRUCKEN to the RHINE River.

j. Two thousand four hundred and ninety-one prisoners were captured in the XV Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 74, the 3d Infantry Division 497, the 45th Infantry Division 1910, and the 100th Infantry Division 10.

21. 21 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued its pursuit of the enemy in its zone against sporadic resistance. Elements of the 6th Armored Division reached the RHINE River. Strong concentrations of enemy artillery were received in towns on the right of the Corps front.

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Operations Instructions No 148 XV Corps, dated 1700, 21 March, directed, in compliance with Operations Instructions No 101 Seventh Army, dated 21 March 1945, that:

The 71st and 100th Infantry Divisions with attachments pass to XXI Corps, effective 0900, 22 March.

The 63d Infantry Division with attachments pass to XV Corps, effective at once, and assemble in Corps Reserve in the vicinity of KIRKEL (Q6376).

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions and 106th Cavalry Group destroy the enemy in their respective zones and seize the west bank of the RHINE River. (14).

a. The 71st Infantry Division continued its defensive mission, completed relief of elements of the 100th Infantry Division, and maintained contact with the 3d Infantry Division on its left and with elements of the VI Corps on its right. There was close contact with the enemy. Large harassing concentrations of hostile artillery fell on the following towns in the division sector: LEIDERSCHIEDT (Q8258), BOTTENBACH (Q8264), KLEIN STEINHAUSEN (Q8066), and SCHWEYEN (Q7462).

(1) The 14th Infantry maintained its defensive positions along an inactive front. By 0615 the 3d Battalion relieved elements of the 5th Infantry along the line: ROFFERVILLER (Q8456) - WALSCHBRONN (Q8161). The 2d Battalion moved forward and extended the right portion of the regimental front to include EPPENBRUNN (Q8757). The 1st Battalion remained in regimental reserve in positions to the rear of the 2d Battalion.

(2) The 66th Infantry relieved elements of the 100th Infantry Division in positions without incident by 0530. The 1st, 3d, and 2d Battalions from right to left maintained the line: WALSCHBRONN-DIETRICHINGEN (Q7666).

(3) The 5th Infantry remained in division reserve near HANVILLER (Q7956) and conducted assault training.

b. The 100th Infantry Division was completely relieved during the period by elements of the 71st Infantry Division and all regiments assembled and conducted assault training in assembly areas. Strong enemy harassing artillery concentrations were directed on towns in the right position of the division zone.

(1) The 397th Infantry was relieved in position along the line: WALSCHBRONN-DIETRICHINGEN by 0530. The 1st Battalion moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of WALSCHBRONN, the 3d Battalion moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Q7962), and the 2d Battalion moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of SCHWEYEN.

(2) The 398th Infantry remained in its assembly area and continued training and range firing. The 3d Battalion was near SCHORBACH (Q7653) and the 1st and 2d Battalions were in the area: LINGELSHHEIM (Q7556) - NOUSEVILLER (Q7356).

(3) The 2d Battalion 399th Infantry, upon relief on position by elements of the 71st Infantry Division, closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of (Q7659) by 0200. The 3d Battalion near (Q7958) and the 1st

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Battalion near (Q7758) conducted assault training.

c. The 3d Infantry Division continued its attack and maintained contact with adjacent units. Moderate harassing artillery fire fell in the zone throughout the period.

(1) During the afternoon the 7th Infantry moved to the vicinity of CONTWIG (Q7770) and at 2100 attached with the 3d and 1st Battalions in the assaulting echelon. The attack proceeded with no opposition, the 3d Battalion reaching the vicinity of (Q8073) and (Q8171), and the 1st Battalion reaching the vicinity of (Q8075). The 2d Battalion remained in reserve in the vicinity of CONTWIG.

(2) The 15th Infantry attacked at 2000 with the 1st and 3d Battalions in the assaulting echelon. Little opposition was received but the advance was delayed by mines and booby traps. The 1st Battalion reached positions near (Q8663), (Q8865), and (Q8767). The 3d Battalion reached positions near (Q8469) after clearing out HOH (Q8772) and NUNSCHWELLER (Q8369). The 2d Battalion remained in reserve in the vicinity of CONTWIG.

(3) The 30th Infantry assembled in the vicinity of ZWEIBRUCKEN.

d. The 45th Infantry Division continued its rapid advance in its zone with slight opposition. Only a few sporadic harassing concentrations of artillery fire were received throughout the zone.

(1) The 179th Infantry (motorized) left HOMBURG at 1000 following CCA of the 6th Armored Division and bivouaced for the night in the vicinity of KAISERLANTERN. The 1st Battalion was near (Q9897), the 2d Battalion near (Q8686), and the 3d Battalion near (Q8484).

(2) The 2d Battalion 157th Infantry cleared KIRBERG (Q7378) by 0800. By noon the regiment assembled and followed the advance of the 179th Infantry. The 1st Battalion on the right of the regimental zone encountered only light small arms fire in taking MARTINSHOE (Q8185). The regiment bivouaced for the night with the 3d Battalion near (Q8686), the 2d Battalion near (Q8484), and the 1st Battalion near (Q8386).

(3) The 1st Battalion 180th Infantry reverted to regimental control at 0001. At daylight the regiment attacked, following the advance of the 179th Infantry, and bivouaced for the night with the 1st Battalion in the vicinity of (Q7987), the 2d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q7890), and the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of (Q7483).

e. The 63d Infantry Division was attached to XV Corps at 1700 and began to assemble in Corps reserve in the vicinity of KIRKEL (Q6376) in compliance with Operations Instructions No 148 XV Corps.

f. The 6th Armored Division advanced rapidly in its zone against negligible resistance on the left and intermittently strong resistance on the right.

(1) CCB advanced against sporadic rear guard action and rapidly cleared MORSBACH (Q7578), KASHOFEN (Q7680), ROSENKOPF (Q7883), and LANDSTUHL

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(Q8790). Strong resistance was encountered along the road: AUERBACH (Q7775)-WINTERBACH (Q7978). Elements bivouaced in the vicinity of EBERTSHEIM (M2607).

(2) CCA captured DREISEN (M2012) by 0800 and sent patrols into WORMS where they met elements of Third Army. Elements that captured OSTHOFEN (M4223) and RHEIN-DURKHEIM (M4422) by 1200 received fire from the east bank of the RHINE. The remainder of the command went into assembly areas in the vicinity of KINDENHEIM (M3012).

(3) CCR followed the advance of CCB and went into assembly areas in the vicinity of EBERTSHEIM.

(4) The 86th Armored Infantry Battalion proceeded thru HOMBURG and then followed CCA to assembly areas in the vicinity of KINDENHEIM.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group (less Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached to Sixth Army Group) continued its advance against slight opposition.

(1) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron cleared BATTWEILLER (Q8075) and OBER-AUERBACH (Q7775) by 0250, and by 1330 had cleared SCHMITTSHAUSEN (Q8378). Elements reached WESELBERG (Q9081) by the end of the period.

(2) Elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron cleared REIFENBERG (Q8375) by 1330, and reached OBERHAUSEN (Q8480) and MASSWEILLER (Q7484) by the end of the period.

h. XV Corps Artillery fired only 2 counterbattery missions during the period.

i. XV Corps Engineers completed a two-way 40 foot class 40 timber bridge near (Q8659) and a one-way 52 foot class 40 timber bridge at (Q6963). In addition, anti-tank ditches, debris, and mines were cleared from roads in the Corps zone.

j. XII Tactical Air force flew 324 sorties in support of Seventh Army. Motor transport and horse drawn vehicles were bombed and strafed in the vicinity of (R5779), (R4079), (R9074), (R3966), (R9670) and (R9671). Barges along the RHINE were strafed and the SPEYER bridge was bombed and 2 direct hits observed.

k. Two thousand eight hundred and twenty-five prisoners were captured in the XV Corps zone during the period: the 3d Infantry Division captured 356, the 45th Infantry Division captured 2055, the 100th Infantry Division captured 1, the 6th Armored Division captured 398, and the 71st Infantry Division 15.

SUMMARY

After the 3d Infantry Division had smashed through the SIEGFRIED defenses to capture ZWEIBRUCKEN and the 45th Infantry Division had broken through to take HOMBURG on 20 March, there appeared to be a clear road ahead, and the 6th Armored Division, which had been previously alerted for the move, was ordered to pass through the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions and exploit the breakthrough by attacking in its zone to the RHINE River.

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The 3d Infantry Division, which had broken through in the western portion of the Corps zone, was ordered to clear the ZWEIFRUCKEN area to safeguard supply lines, and did so by attacking directly to the east with two regiments.

In the wake of the 6th Armored Division, prisoners streamed back unguarded to prisoner of war cages until picked up by units of the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions which followed closely the 6th Armored Division.

The enemy had received no replacements during the XV Corps attack on the SIEGFRIED LINE and its subsequent advance to the RHINE River. Alert officers of the 17th SS Division placed themselves at strategic crossroads and recruited retreating personnel to aid, initially in the SIEGFRIED defense, and later in delaying actions.

By 22 March, the enemy had been completely routed, and except for disorganized resistance in small pockets, no contact was claimed west of the RHINE after that date in the XV Corps zone. In the course of the operation XV Corps had badly battered the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division and the 16th Infantry Division, as well as numerous battle groups, fortress battalions, Volksturm, and artillery units fighting as infantry. Prisoners of war taken during the breakthrough and the attack to the RHINE River, from 15-23 March totaled 9736.

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THE CROSSING OF THE RHINE RIVER
AND RAPID PURSUIT OF THE ENEMY

22-25 March - Preparation for the crossing
26 March - The crossing of the RHINE
27-31 March - Pursuit of the enemy

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

XV Corps prepared, from 22-23 March, to cross the RHINE River in the vicinity of WORMS, in compliance with Field Order 10 Seventh Army.

The enemy order of battle presented a confused picture and it was impossible to predict what enemy strength would be met. It was believed, however, that the enemy had been thoroughly disorganized from his rout on the west bank, but it was not known if the Germans had placed one of their few out-of-contact divisions in the area.

Supply bases were enroute to the RHINE Plain, prepared to cross the river to minimize supply difficulties in the anticipated fast-moving situation. Transportation remained adequate to move supply dumps as well as shuttle troops.

Reconnaissance was carried on along the bank of the RHINE, by foot and by liaison plane. Regimental commanders and many battalion commanders saw first-hand the terrain over which they were to attack.

Engineer equipment to bridge the RHINE was hauled as close to the river bank as secrecy would permit. It was planned to span the RHINE with four heavy pontoon bridges after the initial crossing had been made in assault boats.

Plans had been made by G-4 Traffic to control movement after assault divisions had cleared the last of their equipment over the river. Bridges were initially to be used by east-bound traffic, and it was planned to evacuate wounded by ferry and DUKW.

22. 22 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps troops moved to assembly areas on the RHINE Plain west of the river and elements of assault divisions and the Corps cavalry reconnoitered for crossing sites. Command of the 71st and 100th Infantry Divisions passed to XXI Corps at 0900.

Operations Instructions No 149 XV Corps, dated 1830, 22 March, directed in substance that:

The 6th Armored Division continue its advance to the RHINE and prepare to relieve elements of the Third Army within the new Corps boundary (directed by Operations Instructions No 101 Seventh Army), dated 22 March, which assigned as a temporary boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps the line: ST INGERT (inclusive to XV Corps) - (Q8090) RAUSTEIN (Q8893) (exclusive to XV Corps) - (M4012); and between XV Corps and XXI Corps, the line: VOLLUNSTER (Q7258) - ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q7572) (both inclusive to XV Corps.) (Q8074) - BAD DURKHEIM (R3193) LUDWIGSHAFEN (both inclusive to XXI Corps. (15).

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions continue to advance within their zones, halt the bulk of their troops west of the line WACHENHEIM (R3292) - GRUNSTADT (M3007) - ALZEY (M2627), and reconnoiter crossings of the RHINE.

The 106th Cavalry Group continue its present mission until the arrival of the infantry divisions on the aforementioned line, assemble in the vicinity of HESSLOCH (M8727), and reconnoiter RHINE crossings. (16).

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The 106th Cavalry Group continue its present mission until the arrival of the infantry divisions on the aforementioned line, assemble in the vicinity of HESSLOCH (M8727), and reconnoiter RHINE crossings. (16).

a. The 3d Infantry Division moved to a forward assembly area as directed by Operations Instructions No 149 XV Corps. Only slight enemy resistance was encountered throughout the period.

(1) The 7th Infantry advanced to a forward assembly area unopposed, with the exception of a brief, sharp fire fight that preceded the taking of THALEISCHWEILER (Q8873) by the 2d Battalion. At the end of the period, the 2d Battalion was bivouaced near WESELBERG (Q9182), the 1st Battalion near (Q9076), and the 3d Battalion near (Q8774).

(2) All elements of the 15th and 30th Infantry Regiments were enroute, via truck, to assembly areas in the vicinity of WATTENHEIM (M2302) as the period closed. No enemy opposition was encountered.

b. The 45th Infantry Division continued its rapid advance from the vicinity of HOMBURG (Q7180) and closed in forward assembly areas in the vicinity of GRUNSTADT (Q3107). No enemy opposition was encountered.

(1) The 179th Infantry resumed its motor movement at 1000 and closed in a regimental assembly area in the vicinity of (M2905) at 1900.

(2) The 180th Infantry moved by motor to a forward assembly area closing by 1318. The 1st Battalion assembled near COLGENSTEIN (M3309), the 2d Battalion near BOCKENHEIM (M3212), and the 3d Battalion near ALBSHEIM (M3209).

(3) The 157th Infantry followed the advance of the 179th Infantry and closed into a forward assembly area with the 1st Battalion near HETTENLEIDELHEIM (M2304), the 2d Battalion near WATTENHEIM (M2302), and the 3d Battalion near CARLSBERG (M2100).

c. The 63d Infantry Division moved to new assembly areas. The 255th Infantry closed in the vicinity of LIMBACH (Q6679) at 1520, the 254th Infantry closed in the vicinity of KIRKEL (Q6376) at 1545, and the 253d Infantry closed in the vicinity of (Q6381) at 1545.

d. The 6th Armored Division, less elements of CCA, closed in assembly areas in the vicinity of EBERTSHEIM (M2607). Elements of CCA 6th Armored Division maintained forward positions on the west bank of the RHINE River in the vicinity of RHEIN DURKHEIM (M4422).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group covered the advance of elements of the 3d Infantry Division and performed reconnaissance missions in the HARDT Mountains. No enemy resistance was encountered.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron preceded elements of the 3d Infantry Division and reconnoitered the area: WESELBERG (Q9082) - SCHOPP (Q9683) - TRIEPSTADT (R0284) - MOLSCHBACH (R0686), and thence moved to the northeast, closing in area near (M3804) at 1853.

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in group reserve until 1500 and then reconnoitered the area: SAILSTADT (Q8680) - HARSBERG (Q8991) - BAD DURKHEIM (R3193). The squadron closed in the area (Q3896) at 2340.

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f. XV Corps Artillery was inactive throughout the period because of the rapid movement of the Corps and the fluid front lines.

g. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 30 foot Class 40 Bailey bridge near (Q8558) and a 110 foot DS class 40 Bailey bridge at (Q7772). In addition, roads in the Corps zone were cleared and repaired.

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 603 sorties during the period in support of the Seventh Army. FRECKENFELD (R2582), SCHEDT (R2551), VOLLMERWEILER (R2552), LAUTERSCHWAN (R1257), SCHIMMARD (R0660), and BUSCHENBERG (R0659) were bombed and strafed. Fifty motor transport near (R0760), 15 motor transport near (R1760), 100 motor transport near (R1564), 20 motor transport near (R0758), 500 motor transport near (R1060), 40 motor transport at BUSCHENBERG, 50 motor transport near (R0659), 10 motor transport near (R0960), and 20 motor transport near (R0559) were bombed and strafed. The GERSHEIM Bridge over the RHINE was bombed. Six tanks in the vicinity of (R1463) were bombed and strafed with 4 destroyed and 2 damaged.

i. One thousand five hundred seventy-four prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 90, the 3d Infantry Division captured 274, the 45th Infantry Division 189, the 63d Infantry Division 423, and the 6th Armored Division 598.

23. 23 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps, in preparing to force a crossing of the RHINE River, moved elements of the 45th and 3d Infantry Divisions to the west bank under cover of darkness. At 1800 the 44th Infantry Division and the 10th Armored Division passed to control of XV Corps and the 6th Armored Division passed to control of Third Army.

Seventh Army Operations Instructions No 103, dated 23 March, changed the boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps and directed, effective at once, the line: TRIPPSTADT (R0284) - LAMBRECHT (R2486) - DIEDESHEIM (R3290) - MAUDACH (R4695), all to XXI Corps-RR Junctions at (R5098) to XV Corps. (17).

A TWX from Seventh Army, dated 1453, 23 March, changed the temporary boundary between the Seventh Army (XV Corps) and the Third Army effective 1800, 23 March, as follows: SAARBRUCKEN-NEUNKIRCHEN (Q5983) KUSEL (L7504) - ROCKENHAUSEN (M0614) (all to Third Army) - KIRCHHEIM (M1918) (joint use) - ALZEY (M2727) (to Third Army) - GLEBSHEIM (M4531) to Seventh Army. (18).

Seventh Army Operations Instructions No 104, dated 23 March directed in substance that:

The 6th Armored Division with attachments be relieved of attachment to XV Corps and be attached to Third Army effective 1800, 23 March.

The 10th Armored Division with attachments be attached to XV Corps, effective 1800, 23 March, for movement across the RHINE.

XV Corps conduct immediate relief of all Third Army units then holding the west bank of the RHINE within the Corps zone.

63-
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Operations Instructions No 150 XV Corps, dated 2000, March 23, directed in substance that:

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions advance to the RHINE and relieve elements of Third Army within the respective division zone; one regiment and division artillery of both divisions to be moved during the night 23-24 March, the remainder of the divisions to move on Corps order.

The 106th Cavalry Group occupy the west bank of the RHINE from HAMM (M5026) (exclusive) to GIMBSHEIM (M4631) (inclusive).

The 63d Infantry Division prepare for motorized movement on three hours notice to assembly areas in the vicinity of LANGHEIL (M1007).

The 44th Infantry Division be attached to XV Corps in present positions effective at once (authority oral order, Commanding General, Seventh Army and prepare for motorized movement on three hours notice to assembly areas in the vicinity of MUNCHOF (R1193) (19).

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued its unopposed advance to forward assembly areas closing at 1200.

(1) The 7th Infantry moved to the vicinity of (Q9076).

(2) The 15th Infantry, less the 2d Battalion on a guard mission in KAISERLAUTERN, closed at 1200 in an assembly area in the vicinity of ALT LEININGEN (M2401). Under cover of darkness the regiment (less the 2d Battalion) started movement to an assembly area on the west bank of the RHINE.

(3) The 30th Infantry closed at 1400 in an assembly area in the vicinity of HERXHEIM (M3201).

b. The 45th Infantry Division conducted training in river crossing in its assembly areas in the vicinity of GRUNSTADT (M3106). Toward the end of the period movement to forward positions on the west bank of the RHINE was begun.

(1) The 154th Infantry began movement by motors at 2200 to relieve elements of the 6th Armored Division on the west bank of the RHINE.

(2) The 180th Infantry moved by foot to an assembly area in the vicinity of (M3115) and closed at 1545.

(3) The 179th Infantry began at 1730 to move by motors to an assembly area in the vicinity of (M2820).

c. The 63d Infantry Division remained in assembly areas in the vicinity of KIRKEL (Q6376) and conducted a training and rehabilitation program.

d. The 44th Infantry Division in assembly areas in the vicinity of HERBITZHEIM (Q5246) passed to control XV Corps at 1800.

e. The 6th Armored Division, less elements of CCA, remained in assembly areas in the vicinity of EBERTSHEIM (R2667) and passed to control of Third Army at 1800. Elements of CCA maintained a counter-reconnaissance screen on the west bank of the RHINE in the vicinity of RHEIN DURKHEIM (M4422).

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f. The 10th Armored Division assembling in an area in the vicinity of NEUSTADT was attached to XV Corps at 1800 23 March.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group reconnoitered the forward areas of the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions until 1400 and then moved to positions on the west bank of the RHINE.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered in the zone of the 45th Infantry Division, and at 1400 moved to the vicinity of HESSLOCH (M3727) and dispatched elements to occupy GIBSHEIM (M4631) and EICH (M4728).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered in the zone of the 3d Infantry Division, and at 1400 assembled in ERPOIZHEIM (R3599) prior to movement to the HESSLOCH area.

h. XV Corps Artillery fired no missions during the day. Displacement to forward positions behind the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions was effected.

i. XV Corps Engineers continued its program of road and bridge maintenance in the Corps zone.

j. XII Tactical Air Force flew no close support missions for the XV Corps during the period. Five hundred and seventy-nine long range sorties were flown to the Army front east of the RHINE River on rail and road movements.

k. Eight hundred thirty prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 74, the 3d Infantry Division 300, the 45th Infantry Division 183, the 63d Infantry Division 53, and the 6th Armored Division 220.

24. 24 MARCH 1945.

The two assaulting divisions of XV Corps and their supporting troops continued movement to forward positions on the west bank of the RHINE and made preparations for the impending crossing. No enemy artillery fire was received in the Corps zone during the period.

Field Order 23 XV Corps, dated 2400, 24 March, directed, in substance, that:

The 3d Infantry Division attack on "D" day at "H" hour (later announced at 0230 26 March) and force a crossing of the RHINE between a point at (M4905) and WORMS (inclusive), seize the line: railroad between LAMPERTHEIM (M5311) and BOBSTADT (M5118) (both inclusive), continue the attack to capture LORCHERWALD (M5510), and on Corps order attack in the direction of INGLESBACH (M7117).

The 45th Infantry Division attack on "D" day at "H" hour and force a crossing of the RHINE between WORMS (exclusive) and GIBSHEIM (M4631) (inclusive) seize the line: railroad between BOBSTADT (M5118) (exclusive) and GERNSHEIM (M5428) (inclusive), and continue the attack to capture JAGERSBURGER WALD (M5520) on Corps order attack in conjunction with the 63d Infantry Division and seize the line: BENSHEIM (M6420) - REICHENBACH (M6824) - NEIDER-BEERBACH (M6732) (exclusive) and be prepared to continue the attack in the direction of GROS UMSTADT (M8541).

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The 63d Infantry Division (less Division artillery) cross the RHINE on Corps order in the left sector of the Corps zone prepared to attack to the northeast in conjunction with the 45th Infantry Division.

The 44th Infantry Division (less Division artillery) cross the RHINE on Corps order in the right sector of the Corps zone prepared to attack in conjunction with the 3d Infantry Division.

The 106th Cavalry Group assemble in Corps reserve in the vicinity of GIMBSHEIM (M4631). (19)

Operations Instructions No. 151 XV Corps, dated 1500, 24 March, directed that the 44th and 63d Infantry Division move by motors to assembly areas in the vicinity of MUNCHOF (R1193) and LANGMEIL (M1007), respectively. (20)

Operations Instructions No. 107 Seventh Army, dated 24 March, directed in substance that:

Boundaries between XV Corps and VI Corps be changed as follows: (R4294) - (R4197) - (M4200) - (M4303) - (M4504) - (M4605) - (M5005).

XV Corps force a crossing of the RHINE in its zone, maintain contact with Third Army units to the east and west of the RHINE, and prepare to extend the bridgehead on Army order. (21)

Operations Instructions No. 152 XV Corps, dated 1930, 24 March, directed the 106th Cavalry Group to assist the 3d and 45th Infantry Division in their crossings of the RHINE by vigorous patrolling in their zone across the RHINE and by a feint in the GIMBSHEIM (R4631) area early in the morning on 26 March. (23)

Field messages dated 2000, 24 March, from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding Generals 3d and 45th Infantry Division directed the movement of the remainder of their divisions and attached engineer combat groups to forward assembly areas prepared to cross the RHINE on Corps order. (22)

a. The 3d Infantry Division during the night 23-24 March moved the division artillery and one regiment of infantry to the west bank of the RHINE in compliance with Operations Instructions No. 150 XV Corps, issued on 23 March. The remainder of the division conducted river assault training in their assembly areas.

(1) The 3d and 1st Battalions 15th Infantry moved at 0240 to the vicinity of (M4308) and KLEIN NEIDERSHEIM (M4210), respectively. At 0600 the 2d Battalion was relieved of its guard mission in KAISERLAUTERN and at 1800 moved to rejoin its regiment.

(2) The 7th Infantry in the vicinity of (Q9076) and the 30th Infantry in the vicinity of HERXHEIM (M3201) conducted river assault training and at 2200 both regiments began movement to assembly areas on the west bank of the RHINE in compliance with a field message from Commanding General XV Corps, dated 2000, 24 March. (22)

b. The 45th Infantry Division during the night 23-24 March moved its division artillery and one regiment of infantry to the west bank of the RHINE

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and relieved elements of the 6th Armored Division in its zone in compliance with Operations Instructions No. 150 XV Corps. The remainder of the division conducted river assault training in their assembly areas.

(1) The 157th Infantry moved by motors to a forward assembly area, closing at 0300, and relieved elements of the 6th Armored Division in positions along the RHINE. The 1st Battalion was near (M4223), the 2d Battalion was near (M4025), and the 3d Battalion was near (M3919).

(2) The 179th Infantry closed in its assembly area at 0300 and during the period conducted river assault training. The 1st Battalion was in the vicinity of EPPETISHEIM (M3123), the 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of HANGENWEISHEIM (M3223), and the 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of FLOMBORN (M2921).

(3) The 180th Infantry conducted river assault training in its assembly area in the vicinity of (M3115).

c. All elements of the 63d Infantry Division conducted training in assembly areas in the vicinity of KIRKEL (Q6376).

d. All elements of the 44th Infantry Division conducted training in assembly areas in the vicinity of HEMBITTSHEIM (Q5246).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group patrolled the RHINE within its zone.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrolled the line: (M5026) - (M4832) and elements engaged with assault gun fire entrenched enemy in the vicinity of (M5030). Troop "B" was relieved from attachment to Sixth Army Group and rejoined the squadron at 1900.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, in group reserve, moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (R3994).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired no missions during the period. Organization of positions and preparation for the forthcoming crossing of the RHINE were continued.

g. XV Corps Engineers continued maintenance of bridges and roads in the Corps zone. The 540th Engineer Combat Group (attached to the 3d Infantry Division) and the 40th Engineer Combat Group (attached to the 45th Infantry Division) closed in their assembly areas near (M4509) and (M2814) respectively.

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 610 sorties during the period in support of Seventh Army. Troop concentrations and a cross road (R5562) were bombed, a strong point near (R4350) was bombed, and motor transport and rail movement to the east of the RHINE were bombed, strafed, and attacked with rockets.

i. Six hundred and forty-five prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 86, the 3d Infantry Division captured 471, the 45th Infantry Division captured 69, and the 63d Infantry Division captured 19.

25. 25 MARCH 1945:

XV Corps completed final preparations for the crossing of the RHINE. The 44th and 63d Infantry Division moved to forward assembly areas near MUNCHOF (R1193)

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and LANGMEIL (M1007), respectively. No enemy artillery fire was received during the period.

A field message dated 1030, 25 March, from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding General Seventh Army recommended the following boundary between XV Corps and XII Corps: GIEBSHEIM (M4631) - BIEBSHEIM (M5231) - PFUNGSTADT (M6234) - OBER RAMSTADT (M7237) - ROSSDORF (M7340) - DIEBURG (M7945) - BABENHAUSEN (M8752), all inclusive to XV Corps. (24) This boundary was approved at 1725 by a telephone call from G-3 Seventh Army to G-3 XV Corps (25) and verified at 1751 by a TWX from Seventh Army. (26)

Operations Instructions No. 154 XV Corps, dated 2015, 25 March, rescinded that part of Operations Instructions No. 152 XV Corps, issued 24 March, that pertained to the 106th Cavalry Group and directed the attachment of the group to the 3d Infantry Division, effective immediately, for employment east of the RHINE on the Corps right flank. The group was further directed to move commencing early on 26 March to an area to be designated by the Commanding General 3d Infantry Division.

a. Elements of the 3d Infantry Division continued to patrol the RHINE in the division zone while the remaining elements closed under cover of darkness in forward assembly areas on the west bank of the river. The daylight hours were spent in final reconnaissance and training prior to the assault of the RHINE.

(1) Elements of the 15th Infantry patrolled the west bank of the RHINE in the division zone.

(2) The 7th Infantry closed in a forward assembly area in the vicinity of FRAKENTHAL (M4404) at 0115. At darkness the regiment moved to final assembly areas in the vicinity of (M4805), closing by 2400.

(3) The 30th Infantry closed in a forward assembly area in the vicinity of PFIFFLICHEIM (M4213) at 0045. At darkness the regiment moved to final assembly areas in the vicinity of (M4612), closing by 2400.

b. Forward elements of the 45th Infantry Division patrolled the RHINE in the division zone while the remainder of the division closed under cover of darkness in forward assembly areas on the west bank of the river. The daylight hours were spent in reconnaissance and training prior to the assault of the RHINE.

(1) Elements of the 157th Infantry continued to patrol the west bank of the RHINE in the division zone.

(2) The 180th Infantry moved to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of RHEIN DURKHEIM (M4422), closing by 2400.

(3) The 179th Infantry closed at 2255 in a forward assembly area in the vicinity of FLOIBORN (M3022).

c. All elements of the 44th Infantry Division moved by motors to forward assembly areas in the vicinity of MUNCHOF (R1193).

(1) The 71st Infantry moved at 0745 from the vicinity of SILTZHEIM (Q5351) and at 1710 closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of (R2593).

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(2) The 324th Infantry moved at 1345 from the vicinity of WILLERWALD (Q4847) and at 2320 closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of (R2295).

(3) The 114th Infantry moved at 1815 from the vicinity of WITTRING (Q5650) and at the end of the period was still enroute to an assembly area in the vicinity of (R1995).

d. The 63d Infantry Division moved by motors to forward assembly areas.

(1) The 253d Infantry closed at 1200 in an assembly area in the vicinity of SIPPERSFELD (M4405).

(2) The 254th Infantry closed at 1810 in an assembly area in the vicinity of IMSBACH (M1009).

(3) The 255th Infantry was enroute to an assembly area in the vicinity of HOCHSTEIN (M0708) as the period closed.

e. Elements of the 106th Cavalry Group patrolled the RHINE while remaining elements conducted a training and maintenance program.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued to patrol the line: (M4132) to (M5026).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, in Group reserve, conducted a training and maintenance program in the vicinity of FRETTEINHEIM (M3629).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 8 counterbattery missions during the period. Movement to forward firing positions was completed and all guns were registered prior to darkness.

g. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery engaged 12 enemy aircraft over the Corps zone with the 62d and 214th AAA Gun Battalions. In addition, the 838th AAA AV Battalion engaged one enemy plane. Nine enemy planes were damaged. Radar searches picked up scattered personnel and vehicles in the area: SANHOFFEN (M5105) - BIBBS (M5121).

h. XV Corps Engineers continued its program of road and bridge maintenance.

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 557 sorties in support of Seventh Army during the period. Planes attacked with rockets, bombed and strafed road and rail movements, marshalling yards, supply dumps, and bridges east of the RHINE. Medium bombers attacked bridges on the NECKAR River and cross roads to the south thereof.

j. Two hundred and seventy prisoners were captured in the XV Corps sector during the period: Corps troops captured 69, the 3d Infantry Division captured 72, the 45th Infantry Division captured 122, and the 63d Infantry Division captured 7.

26. 26 MARCH 1945:

XV Corps attacked at 0230 with the 3d and 45th Infantry Division, successfully forced a crossing of the RHINE against strong enemy resistance, and by the end of the period had secured a bridgehead east of the RHINE 23 kilometers wide

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and 12 kilometers deep. At 2200 the 12th Armored Division was attached to XV Corps and the 63d Infantry Division was relieved from attachment to XV Corps and attached to XXI Corps. Strong enemy artillery fire fell along the RHINE during the initial stages of the crossing, but decreased in intensity as the advancing elements pushed to the east from the river.

Operations Instructions 110, Seventh Army, dated 25 March, assigned a temporary boundary between Third Army and Seventh Army (XV Corps) effective 0001, 26 March, as follows: west of GLIBSHEIM (M4631), no change - GLIBSHEIM-ROSSDORF (M7340) - DIEBURG (M7945) - BABENHAUSEN (M8752) - ASCHAFFENBURG (N0154), all to Seventh Army. (27)

Operations Instructions No. 155 XV Corps, dated 1600, 26 March, directed in substance, that:

The 44th Infantry Division move during the night 26-27 March from its assembly areas to a sector in the vicinity of LAMPERTHEIM (M5211), relieve elements of the 3d Infantry Division south of the line: WORIS - (M5016) - (M5315) - (M5514) - (M5813) - NACHSTENBACH (M6710), occupy and defend the bridgehead from a point (M5005) on the RHINE to NACHSTENBACH, and protect the right flank of the Corps.

The 3d Infantry Division continue its attack, capture the line: (M5005) - NACHSTENBACH - (M7217) - (M7214), and turn over that portion of the objective west of NACHSTENBACH (M6710) to the 44th Infantry Division.

The 45th Infantry Division continue its attack, capture the line: (M7214) - (M6830) - (M6536) - (M5536), protect the left flank of the Corps, and contact elements of Third Army in EBERSTADT (M6535).

The 63d Infantry Division continue its present mission.

The 106th Cavalry Group revert to Corps control upon turnover by the 3d Infantry Division of that portion of its objective west of NACHSTENBACH to the 44th Infantry Division. (28)

Field messages, dated 1930, 26 March, from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding Generals 63d Infantry Division and 45th Infantry Division directed that the movement of the 63d Infantry Division east of the RHINE as directed by Operations Instructions No. 155 be cancelled; that the 63d Infantry Division Artillery support the advance of the 45th Infantry Division to the limit of its range from present positions; and that the 63d Infantry Division continue to maintain contact with elements of Third Army west of the RHINE. (29)

Field messages, dated 2030, 26 March, from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding General 3d Infantry Division and the Commanding Officer 106th Cavalry Group directed that the 106th Cavalry Group be detached from the 3d Infantry Division effective immediately and that the group revert to Corps reserve in place. (30)

Operations Instructions No. 112 Seventh Army, issued at 2200, 26 March, directed in substance, that:

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Effective immediately the 12th Armored Division (with attachments) be relieved of its attachment to XXI Corps and be attached to XV Corps.

Effective immediately the 63d Infantry Division (with attachments) be relieved of attachment to XV Corps and be attached to XXI Corps.

a. At 0230 the 3d Infantry Division (106th Cavalry Group attached), with the 7th Infantry and 30th Infantry abreast, attacked across the RHINE against stiff enemy resistance and established a firm bridgehead and captured its first objective along a line 12 kilometers east of the RHINE. Strong enemy artillery and mortar fire, including fire of self-propelled guns was received throughout the early part of the period, but as the assaulting troops advanced from the river the fire decreased in intensity. The 106th Cavalry Group closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of PFEDDERSHEIM (M3915).

(1) Following a 38 minute artillery preparation, the 7th Infantry, with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left, forced a crossing of the river in assault boats. By 0340 both battalions were completely across the river. The 1st Battalion advanced against moderate self-propelled artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, and at 0500 entered SANDHOFFEN (M5105). For the remainder of the period the 1st Battalion fought a house-to-house struggle against strong small arms, self-propelled guns, and artillery fire. After a short, stiff fire fight, elements of the 3d Battalion took SCHARHOF (M5107) at 0530, and advanced to KIRSCHGARTSHAUSEN (M5109). Other elements reached the objective, the woods near (M5306), by 0800 without opposition. Only scattered resistance was encountered throughout the day, and by the end of the period elements of the 3d Battalion were near (M5406), (M5407), and (M5408). The 2d Battalion, in regimental reserve, completed crossing the river by 1100 and proceeded to SANDHOFFEN where it was committed to assist the 1st Battalion in clearing the town.

(2) The 30th Infantry, after a 38 minute artillery preparation, crossed the RHINE in assault boats in the face of moderate small arms, mortar, and artillery fire. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left were completely across the river by 0300. The 3d Battalion then attacked toward LAMPERTHEIM (M5210). Fierce resistance from automatic weapons, tank, and mortar fire was met in this town. At 1255 the enemy counterattacked with about 150 infantry. By 1330 the counterattack was beaten off and the town was cleared. Elements of the battalion then advanced to NEUSCHLOSS (M5611), and by the end of the period that town was cleared. The 2d Battalion advanced rapidly without opposition to the objective (M5216) and continued to BURSTADT (M5115) against small arms and self-propelled artillery fire. At 1027 an enemy counterattack by an unreported number of infantry supported by two tanks was beaten off. The battalion advanced slowly and prior to darkness cleared the town. The 1st Battalion, in regimental reserve, crossed the river at 0400 and by 0530 reduced a strong point at (M5118). The bridge site near (M4614) and the initial objective near (M4817) were cleared at 0641 and 1035, respectively. The 1st Battalion then assembled in BURSTADT and at 2309 began movement to LAMPERTHEIM.

(3) By noon all elements of the 15th Infantry, in division reserve, had crossed the RHINE. The 3d Battalion was committed at 0900 against enemy resistance on the island near (M5012). By noon this resistance was cleared, and the battalion moving against slight resistance entered SANDTORF (M5408) by 1935. The 1st and 2d Battalions assembled initially in the vicinity of (M5014) and (M4914), respectively. At 2155 the 1st and 2d Battalions, 1st Battalion on the right, advanced to

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pass through the 3d Battalion and attack to the southeast.

b. At 0230 the 45th Infantry Division, with the 180th Infantry on the right and the 179th Infantry on the left, attacked across the RHINE against strong enemy resistance, secured a firm bridgehead, and gained its first objective. Enemy artillery fire was strong during the crossings, but decreased in intensity as the troops advanced eastward from the river.

(1) At 0230 the 180th Infantry with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left attacked across the RHINE against intense enemy resistance from automatic weapons, mortar, self-propelled guns, and artillery fire. A beachhead was secured although 60% of the assault boats were destroyed by enemy fire. The attacking echelons advanced rapidly and by 0600 had cleared NORDHEIM (M4620), WATTENHEIM (M4820), and BIBLIS (M5120) against scattered resistance from small enemy delaying forces. Continuing the attack, the regiment by darkness had reached the division objective in its zone against negligible resistance. The 1st Battalion was near (M5819), the 3d Battalion was near (M5924), and the 2d Battalion, in regimental reserve, near BIBLIS.

(2) At 0230 the 179th Infantry with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left attacked across the RHINE against moderate enemy resistance from automatic weapons, mortar, and artillery fire. A crossing was quickly secured, and the 1st Battalion pushed forward to seize GROSS ROHRHEIM (M5323) and KLEIN ROHRHEIM (M5326) against only scattered enemy pockets of resistance. The 2d Battalion pushed north along the river to expand the bridgehead and to protect the engineers in their construction of a treadway bridge near (M5026). By darkness the regiment had gained the division objective within its zone with the 1st Battalion along the line: (M5925) - (M5727) - (M5827), the 2d Battalion along the line: (M5527) - (M5328), and the 3d Battalion, in regimental reserve, in the vicinity of GROSS ROHRHEIM.

(3) The 157th Infantry, in division reserve, assembled across the river with the 1st and 3d Battalions in the vicinity of (M5522) and the 2d Battalion in the woods in the vicinity of (M4823).

c. The 44th Infantry Division closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of MUNCHOFF (R1090) at 1330 and made preparations to cross the RHINE on 27 March.

d. The 63d Infantry Division closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of (M0807) and passed to the control of XXI Corps at 2200.

e. The 12th Armored Division in the vicinity of (R3785) was attached to XV Corps at 2200.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired a counterbattery program in the zone of the 3d Infantry Division starting at "H" hour and followed it by a one hour harassing program. In the zone of the 45th Infantry Division 5 counterbattery missions were fired at "H" hour and were later refired during the attack. In addition, 42 counterbattery missions were fired, and 31 observed and 141 unobserved missions were fired on road intersections and on enemy personnel and vehicles in the Corps zone. Near the close of the period Corps artillery began firing a night harassing program on suspected enemy targets in the MANNHEIM (M5400) area.

g. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery reported two separate enemy aircraft and one flight of two enemy planes over the Corps zone during the period. The

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62d AAA Gun Battalion engaged these planes and reported two of them damaged. The 106th AAA AW Battalion fired ground missions throughout the period. Searchlights were used along the RHINE to provide illumination for the attacking troops and engineers. Radar search continued, but reported scattered activity only.

h. XV Corps Engineers supported the advance of the attacking divisions by constructing and maintaining bridges and by clearing roads and mine fields in the Corps zone. The 540th Engineer Combat Group supported the attack of the 3d Infantry Division by carrying all assault waves across the RHINE in its assault boats and by constructing two heavy ponton rafts and two infantry support rafts. In addition, the group, by the end of the period, constructed a 948 foot treadway bridge and a 1040 foot heavy ponton bridge across the RHINE. The latter was completed in 9 hours and 12 minutes. The 40th Engineer Combat Group supported the attack of the 45th Infantry Division. The group carried all assault waves across the river in its assault boats, installed two infantry support rafts, and constructed two near-shore and two far-shore approaches for DD tanks and DUKWs. In addition, by the end of the period the group had nearly completed the construction of a treadway bridge and a heavy ponton bridge across the RHINE.

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 929 sorties during the period. Of this total 650 sorties were in support of XV Corps. One hundred twenty sorties were flown in close support of the 45th Infantry Division; 48 aircraft attacked with rockets, bombed, and strafed BENSHEIM (M6420); 48 aircraft attacked strong points and troops concentrations; and 24 aircraft attacked GERESHEIM, BIBLIS, and KLEIN HAUSEN (M5819). Sixty sorties were flown in close support of the 3d Infantry Division; 12 aircraft attacked with rockets, bombed, and strafed artillery positions near (M5307), barracks near (M5812), and a bridge and a self-propelled gun near (M5302); 48 aircraft attacked alternate targets ahead of the division front lines. Long range flights attacked with rockets, bombed, and strafed 22 motor transport and one tank at DESTADT (M9108), destroying all. A bridge at (M5302) and a locomotive with 25 boxcars near (R5661) were bombed. Over 150 motor transport and troop concentrations in WURZBERG were bombed by medium bombers during the period.

j. Two thousand five hundred eighty-six prisoners were captured in the XV Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 25, the 3d Infantry Division captured 1390, the 45th Infantry Division captured 1047, and the 12th Armored Division captured 124.

27. 27 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued to expand its bridgehead against moderate enemy resistance. The 44th Infantry Division had closed in forward positions on the east bank of the RHINE and the 12th Armored Division was crossing the RHINE at the close of the period. Enemy artillery activity along the Corps front was negligible, but moderate sporadic concentrations were directed on bridges along the RHINE in the right of the Corps zone.

A field message, dated 0845, 27 March, from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding General 12th Armored Division directed that on Corps order and on six hours notice the division prepare to move from its positions to an area to be designated east of the RHINE. (31).

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A field message, dated 1535, 27 March, from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding Generals 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions directed these divisions to continue their advance to the northeast. (32).

Operations Instructions No 156 XV Corps, dated 1730, 27 March, directed the 12th Armored Division to move commencing 1800, 27 March, to an area in the vicinity of LORSCH (M5916).

Operations Instructions No 157 XV Corps, dated 1800 27 March, directed in substance that:

The 44th Infantry Division continue its advance, clear MANNHEIM, seize crossings of the NECKAR River in its zone, and protect the right flank of the Corps;

The 3d Infantry Division continue its advance in its zone to the Seventh Army bridgehead (the line: NECKAR River from MANNHEIM to KALIBACH (M9604) - BREITENBACH (N0110) - AMORBACH (N0616) - MUD Brook - MAIN River - STOCKSTADT (M9453));

The 45th Infantry Division continue its advance in its zone to the Army bridgehead, contact and relieve elements of the Third Army in its zone, and protect the left flank of the Corps;

The 12th Armored Division on arrival east of the RHINE advance to the Army bridgehead in its zone;

The 106th Cavalry Group cover the advance of the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions to the Army bridgehead and maintain contact with elements of the Third Army;

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions, the 12th Armored Division, and Corps Artillery (less those units supporting the 44th Infantry Division), be closed east of the MANNHEIM-FRANKFURT Autobahn by 1200, 28 March. (33).

a. The 44th Infantry Division crossed the RHINE by motors and closed at 1900 into an assembly area near (M5609). Prior to the end of the period, the three infantry regiments of the division occupied without enemy opposition positions along the line: (M5005) on the RHINE (M6004) - (M6709).

(1) The 114th Infantry moved from the vicinity of FRANKENSTEIN (R1793) and closed at 1530 in its assembly area near (M6009). The 1st and 3d Battalions, 3d Battalion on the right, relieved elements of the 3d Infantry Division along the line: (M6205) - (M6507) - (M6709). The 2d Battalion occupied regimental reserve positions near (M6107).

(2) The 324th Infantry moved from the vicinity of HERTLINGSHAUSEN (R2199) and closed at 1200 in its assembly area near (M5508). By 1530 the 1st and 3d Battalions, 1st Battalion on the right, closed in positions along the line: (M5705) - (M5905) - (M6106). At 1758 elements of the 1st Battalion occupied VIERNNHEIM (M6104). The 2d Battalion occupied regimental reserve positions near (M5808).

(3) The 71st Infantry moved from the vicinity of (R2292) and closed at 1725 in its assembly area near (M5109). The 1st and 2d Battalions, 2d Battalion on the right, closed by 1725 in positions along the line: (M5005) -

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(M5504) - (M5704). The 3d Battalion was in reserve positions near (M5307).

b. The 3d Infantry Division expanded its bridgehead across the RHINE against moderate sporadic resistance.

(1) After passing through positions of the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of SANDTORF (M5407), the 1st and 2d Battalions 15th Infantry, 2d Battalion on the right, advanced to the southeast. By 0140 the LINNHEIM-FRANKFURT Autobahn was cut near (M5911). The 2d Battalion met strong enemy resistance from automatic weapons and mortar fire in HEMSBAACH (M6610), but by 1200 had cleared the town. At the end of the period elements of the 2d Battalion were encountering strong automatic weapons and small arms fire in their advance on SUIZBACH (M6609). The 3d Battalion, in reserve, protected the regimental right flank from defensive positions in the vicinity of (M5709).

(2) The 3d Battalion 30th Infantry, after vigorous patrolling, moved at 1300 without opposition to HEPPENHEIM (M6415). In rapid succession and with negligible opposition, elements by the end of the period had cleared KIRCHHAUSEN (M6816), MITTERSCHAUSEN (M7017), and IGLESBACH (M7018). The 1st Battalion moved from the vicinity of LAIPERTHEIM (M5210) and at 1000 closed in the area near (M5917). At 1700 the Battalion attacked and, encountering negligible opposition, reached LAUDENBACH (M6512) by 2112. The 2d Battalion cleared LORSCH (M5917) by 1200 after a stiff fight against automatic weapons and self-propelled artillery fire. The battalion then moved without enemy opposition to HEPPENHEIM (M6416) where all companies remained in defensive positions as the period closed.

(3) The 7th Infantry after clearing SANDHOFFEN was relieved by elements of the 44th Infantry Division and reverted to division reserve. The 1st and 2d Battalions cleared SANDHOFFEN by 1200 after a stiff struggle against enemy small arms, automatic weapons, and self-propelled fire. Elements of the 3d Battalion cleared SCHLARHOF (M5107) against light enemy resistance by 1100. During the afternoon the regiment was relieved by elements of the 44th Infantry Division and closed by 2300 in an assembly area in the vicinity of LORSCH.

c. The 45th Infantry Division with three regiments abreast continued to attack to the northeast against moderate enemy resistance.

(1) The 180th Infantry on the right continued its attack to the northeast at 0800 with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. Elements of the 3d Battalion, encountering slight resistance cleared SCHWANHEIM (M6022) at 0817, FEHLHEIM (M6022) at 0855, and AUERBACH (M6322) at 1208. At 1227 elements attacked without opposition to the northeast and by 1330 secured the high ground in the vicinity of (M6724). The 1st Battalion cleared BENSHEIM (M6320) at 1100 against sporadic enemy resistance. The battalion continued the attack and secured ENSHAUSEN (M6722) without opposition by the end of the period. The 2d Battalion, initially in regimental reserve positions near (M5822), attacked at 1300 through the 1st and 3d Battalions and advanced rapidly against sporadic resistance by small enemy delaying forces. WILMSHAUSEN (M6722) was cleared by 1529, and by the end of the period elements of the battalion had cleared REICHENBACH (M6824), LAUNTERN (M7025), and BEEDENKIRCHEN (M7026).

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(2) The 179th Infantry attacked at 0730, with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left, and advanced rapidly against negligible resistance. By the close of the period the 1st Battalion had reached HOXHOHL (M7128), the 3d Battalion had elements in OBERMODAN (M7232) and ERNSTHOFFEN (M7131), and the 2d Battalion had elements in JUGENHEIM (M6429), ALSBACH (M6427), and SEEHEIM (M6530).

(3) The 157th Infantry on the left attacked with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. Encountering only slight enemy resistance, the battalions advanced rapidly. By the end of the period patrols from the 2d Battalion had pushed to the MAIN River. The 3d Battalion was near (M8039), the 2d Battalion near GROS ZIMMERN (M7842), and the 1st Battalion in regimental reserve was near (M7036).

d. The 12th Armored Division began movement at 1900 from its assembly area in the vicinity of (R3785), and at the end of the period was enroute across the RHINE to its assembly area in the vicinity of LORSCH (M6017).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group moved from its assembly area in the vicinity of LEISELHEIM (M4115), completed crossing the RHINE at 1500, and by the end of the period was moving to cover the advance of the 45th and 3d Infantry Divisions.

f. XV Corps Artillery displaced to positions behind the front line divisions and then fired missions as requested by artillery headquarters of each division. The 208th FA Battalion fired 100 rounds on harassing missions during the night.

g. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery reported one enemy aircraft over the Corps zone engaged by the 106th AAA Gun Battalion. Hits were observed, but the plane continued on its course. The 353d AAA SL Battalion illuminated the island near (M5202) for the 540th Engineer Group.

h. XV Corps Engineers supported the advance of the infantry divisions by maintaining roads and bridges in the Corps zone. The 1101st Engineer Combat Group completed a one-way class 40 floating treadway bridge on the RHINE near (M5025). The 40th Engineer Combat Group completed a one-way, class 40 heavy ponton bridge on the RHINE at (M4420).

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 312 sorties during the period. Seventy-two sorties were flown in support of XV Corps. Forty-eight sorties were flown in support of the 45th Infantry Division; 12 aircraft attacked with rockets, bombed, and strafed BENSHEIM, and 36 aircraft attacked over 90 motor and horse drawn transport in HEIDELBERG (R6990). Twenty-four aircraft bombed and strafed vehicular movement along the Corps front. The remainder of the aircraft protected the RHINE bridgehead.

j. One thousand four hundred fifty-four prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 29, the 3d Infantry Division 967, the 45th Infantry Division 351, the 44th Infantry Division 22, and the 12 Armored Division 85.

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XV Corps, continuing to expand its bridgehead over the RHINE against moderate enemy resistance, forced bridgeheads in its zone over both the MAIN and the NECKAR Rivers. The 12th Armored Division crossed the RHINE and was

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committed on the right of the 3d Infantry Division. Enemy artillery was moderately active along the Corps right front but was at a minimum throughout the remainder of the Corps zone.

Operations Instructions No 113 Seventh Army, dated 27 March, assigned as a future boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps the line: EIBACH (M9017) - AMORBACH (N0161) - HARDHEIM (N2514) - TAUBERBISCHOFHEIM (N3815), all inclusive to XXI Corps. (34).

Operations Instructions No 158 XV Corps, dated 0700, 28 March, directed that the 10th Armored Division and the 63d Infantry Division (attached to XV Corps for movement only, by oral instructions of the Commanding General Seventh Army) move to the vicinity of MANNHEIM and LAMPERTHEIM (M5310), respectively, leading elements of both divisions to cross the RHINE commencing 1500, 28 March. (35).

Operations Instructions No 159 XV Corps, dated 1100, 28 March, directed in substance that:

The Seventh Army bridgehead assigned in Operations Instructions No 157 XV Corps, dated 1800 27 March, be modified to include the line: HOSSBACH (N0456) - HEIMBUCHENTHAL (N1244) - REISTENHAUSEN (N1311) - HORNBAACH (N1211) - WAGENSCHWEND (S0197) - KLOSTER-LOBENFELD (R9284) - (R5690) on the RHINE;

The boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps (as assigned by Operations Instructions No 113 Seventh Army, dated 27 March) become effective on Army order after XXI Corps assumed command of its zone east of the RHINE;

The 44th Infantry Division remain under control of XV Corps, and on crossing the NECKAR River continue to advance to the Army bridgehead in its zone;

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions continue to advance to the Army bridgehead in their respective zones;

The 12th Armored Division pass beyond the Army bridgehead in its zone on multiple routes toward WÜRZBURG (N5835) and SCHWEINFURT (N7964);

The 106th Cavalry Group pass beyond the Army bridgehead, cover the advance of the 45th and 3d Infantry Divisions by advancing on multiple routes in the direction: LOHR (N3156) - BAD KISSINGEN (N6630), and cover the left flank of the Corps east of the Army bridgehead. (36).

a. With its three infantry regiments abreast, the 44th Infantry Division attacked to the south at 0700. Enemy opposition was slight initially, but by noon troops were encountering strong resistance. Enemy artillery activity consisted of slight sporadic shelling throughout the day. By the end of the period elements of the division had crossed the NECKAR River.

(1) The 71st Infantry on the right attacked with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion advanced rapidly against slight resistance, and by 1010 had reached its objective along the NECKAR River in the vicinity of (R5498). The 2d Battalion reached KALTERTAL

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(M5601) by 0915, and cleared the town by 1800 after encountering stiff resistance from enemy automatic weapons, mortar, and artillery fire. The 3d Battalion, initially in reserve, was committed at 1240 and after a stiff fight against enemy automatic weapons and mortar fire cleared FEUDENHEIM (M5899) by 1800.

(2) The 324th Infantry attacked with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 3d Battalion, encountering slight resistance, took WALLSTADT (R5900) at 1100 and ILVESHEIM (R6097) at 1915. The 1st Battalion took HEDDESHEIM (M6200) without opposition at 0905, and by 1915 had seized LADENBERG (R6397). The 2d Battalion, initially in reserve, was committed by noon and at 1410 crossed the NECKAR River in the vicinity of (R6198). By 1800 the battalion had reached positions 1000 meters south of the river. At 1831 the battalion received a counterattack by 400 enemy infantry, but quickly broke it up by calling for and receiving prompt and accurate artillery fire on the enemy positions.

(3) The 114th Infantry attacked on the division left with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion encountered strong opposition from enemy automatic weapons and mortar fire in its advance toward WEINHEIM (M6706). After receiving assistance from elements of the 3d Battalion, the town was cleared by dark. Elements of the 3d Battalion cleared NACKSTEINBACH (M6808) without opposition by 0820, and by 1010 had made contact with elements of the 1st Battalion in WEINHEIM. As the period closed, elements of the 3d Battalion were fighting in LUTZELACHSEN (M6703) against strong enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. The 2d Battalion, initially in reserve, was committed at 1230 to seize SCHRIESHEIM (R6697). Strong enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire was encountered, but by 2130 the town was taken.

b. The 3d Infantry Division continued its attack with the 15th Infantry on the right and the 30th Infantry on the left. Only slight enemy resistance was encountered.

(1) The 15th Infantry continued its attack with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion at 1110 took NEIDER LIEBERSBACH (M7011) without opposition, and at 1515 took MORLENBACH (M7012) after a short, stiff fight. The 2d Battalion then reverted to regimental reserve. At 0425 elements of the 1st Battalion after a brief fire fight took BONSWELLER (M7414), RIMBACH (M7414), and FURTH (M7517) were taken without opposition and by the end of the period elements of the battalion were advancing on HAMMELBACH (M7915). The 3d Battalion initially in reserve, assembled early in the period in the vicinity of (M6515). At 0900 the battalion advanced, passed through RIMBACH at 1600, and attacked toward OBER OSTERN (M8020). By the end of the period, elements of the battalion were near (M8118) and (M8018).

(2) The 30th Infantry launched a coordinated attack at 1200 with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. By 1400 the 3d Battalion after a brief fire fight cleared ERLLENBACH (M7019). Continuing the advance against numerous road blocks supported by small enemy pockets of resistance, the battalion by the end of the period had reached (M7823). The 1st Battalion, encountering only slight sporadic resistance, cleared GLATTBACH (M7322) by 1300, LINDENFELS (M7521) by 1700, and by the end of the period had advanced to the vicinity of (M8831). The 2d Battalion, in reserve, moved at 1500 by motors from HEPPENHEIM (M6516) and closed at 1700 in LINDENFELS (M7521).

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(3) The 7th Infantry, in division reserve, moved from the vicinity of LORSCH (M6017) to GLATTBACH (M7322), closing by 1630.

c. The 45th Infantry Division continued its attack with its three infantry regiments abreast. There was no enemy contact on the division left front and only sporadic enemy small arms fire was encountered in the center and on the division right front.

(1) The 180th Infantry on the right attacked at 0730 with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The advance progressed rapidly against weak enemy resistance. By the close of the period, elements of the 2d Battalion were in the vicinity of (M9338), and elements of the 3d Battalion were near (N0243) and (N0139). The 1st Battalion, in reserve, was enroute from BENSHEIM (M6320) to HOCHST (M9033) as the period closed.

(2) The 179th Infantry continued its attack at 0730 with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. No enemy resistance was encountered and at 1500 the battalions crossed the MAIN River on an intact railroad bridge near (M9951). The 1st Battalion reached positions near (N0147), the 3d Battalion reached positions near (N0151), and the 2d Battalion, in reserve was near GROSS OSTHEIM (M9647) as the period closed.

(3) The 157th Infantry on the left resumed its attack at 0730 with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. No enemy resistance was encountered as the regiment advanced toward the MAIN River, and by 1500 the entire regiment had crossed the river on the bridge near (M9951). Moderate resistance was encountered from enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire as the battalions pushed to the east from the river. By the end of the period the 3d Battalion was in positions near (N0151), the 2d Battalion was in the southeast outskirts of ASCHAFFENBERG (N0154), and the 1st Battalion was in reserve positions near (M9950).

d. The 12th Armored Division completed its crossing of the RHINE by 0900 and closed in the vicinity of LORSCH (M5916). Elements of the division attacked at 0900, passed through elements of the 3d Infantry Division, and by the end of the period had advanced 12 kilometers.

(1) Elements of CCB, on the right, meeting scattered enemy resistance and roadblocks, reached positions near (M8006) by the end of the period.

(2) Elements of CCA on the left met negligible enemy resistance, but its advance was slowed by numerous roadblocks. By the close of the period, elements had advanced to the vicinity of (M8615).

(3) CCR, in division reserve, remained in the vicinity of LORSCH.

e. The 63d Infantry Division commenced crossing the RHINE at 1500 to an assembly area in the vicinity of (M5810).

f. The 10th Armored Division commenced crossing the RHINE at 1500 to an assembly area north of MANNHEIM.

g. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to cover the advance of the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions.

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(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered the front of the 3d Infantry Division. Numerous short engagements against small enemy delaying forces were fought throughout the day. By the end of the period, elements of the squadron were in the vicinity of (NO435).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered the front of the 45th Infantry Division and found the railroad bridge at (19951) intact. Elements advanced south along the east bank of the river and by 2400 cleared SULZBACH (NO146) after a stiff fire fight. Other elements advanced south along the west bank of the river and by 2400 had reached the northern outskirts of OBERNBERG (NO138).

h. XV Corps Artillery fired 40 unobserved and 10 observed missions during the day. During the night 315 rounds were fired into MANNHEIM.

i. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain the bridges and roads in the Corps zone.

j. XII Tactical Air Force flew 59 sorties during the day in support of XV Corps. Twelve aircraft bombed WALDORF (R6578) by radar, and the remaining aircraft protected the RHINE bridges.

k. One thousand eight hundred forty-six prisoners were captured during the period: The 3d Infantry Division captured 787, the 45th Infantry Division captured 454, the 12th Armored Division captured 109, and the 44th Infantry Division captured 496.

SUMMARY OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DURING RHINE CROSSING

Sixty-eight hours after leading elements of XV Corps had crossed the RHINE River near WORMS at 0230, 26 March, a total of 120,000 troops and all their vehicles (23,000) and equipment had crossed the river. This figure includes four infantry divisions, two armored divisions, one cavalry group, and 83 attached and assigned units.

a. The initial crossing of the RHINE River was made in assault boats. DUKWs followed carrying artillery pieces and other heavy equipment. By 0800 26 March two infantry support rafts, one in the zone of each assault division, were in operations, and by 1215 two heavy pontoon ferries, one in each assault division zone, were in operations.

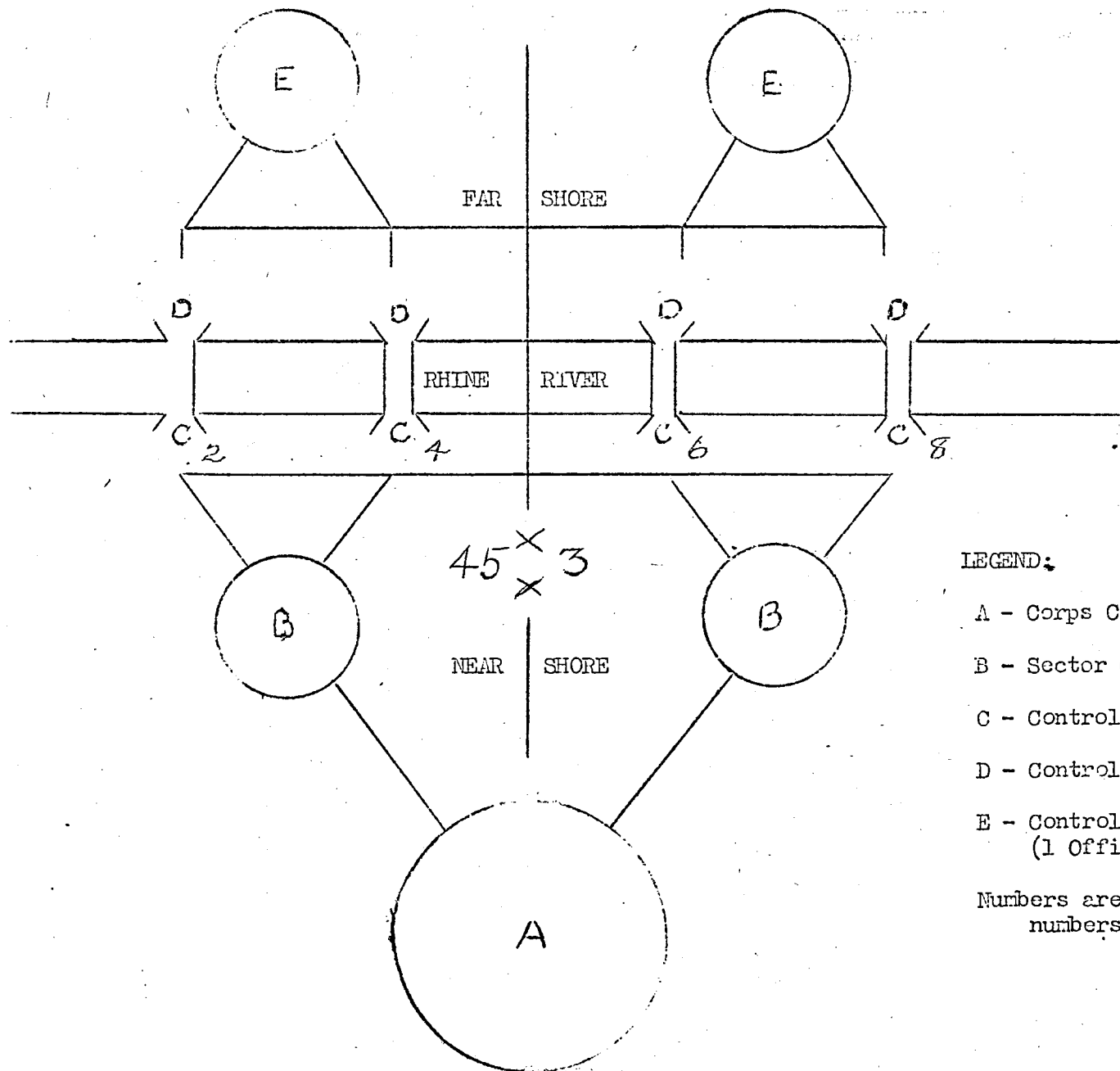
b. As soon as possible after the initial assault of the river line, XV Corps Engineers began to construct four bridges across the RHINE River.

(1) A 1040 foot one-way class 40 heavy ponton bridge, finished in nine hours and twelve minutes, opened at 1515, 26 March, and was designated as bridge 6.

(2) A 948 foot one-way class 40 floating treadway bridge, completed in 12 hours and 50 minutes, opened at 1850, 26 March, and was designated as bridge 8.

(3) A 1000 foot one-way class 40 heavy ponton bridge, finished in 17 hours, opened at 0330, 27 March, and was designated as bridge 4.

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LEGEND:

- A - Corps Control Point
- B - Sector Control Point
- C - Control Points
- D - Control Points
- E - Control Point
(1 Officer, MP's)

Numbers are bridge numbers.

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(4) A 1164 foot one-way class 40 floating treadway bridge, finished in 17 hours and 10 minutes, opened at 0400, 27 March, and was designated as bridge 2.

c. Assault divisions initially controlled traffic movement and crossed a large portion of their organic transportation and supporting troops. XV Corps then assumed control of the bridges and crossed build up divisions and Corps troops. Two divisions and other elements of XXI Corps crossed the RHINE while the bridges were under XV Corps control. XV Corps released the bridges to Seventh Army control at 2400, 28 March. XV Corps assumed control from the divisions at the following times:

(1) Bridges 2 and 4, in the zone of the 45th Infantry Division, 1500, 27 March.

(2) Bridges 6 and 8, in the zone of the 3d Infantry Division, 0200 27 March.

d. Supporting troops which crossed the bridges while they were under division control are as follows: The 191st Tank Battalion, the 645th Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 989th Field Artillery Battalion, the 283d Field Artillery Battalion, the 342d Field Artillery Battalion, the 999th Field Artillery Battalion, the 3d Observation Battalion, the 933d Field Artillery Battalion Service Battery, the 2d Chemical Battalion, the 697th Field Artillery Battalion, the 3616th Quartermaster Truck Company, the 250th Field Artillery Battalion, the 693d Field Artillery Battalion, the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 756th Tank Battalion.

e. Priorities of movement were established by G-3 XV Corps. Movement was controlled by G-4 XV Corps by means of a schedule flexible enough to allow routes and times of crossing to be changed if any of the bridges went out and to allow for unscheduled convoys.

f. Two marshalling areas were set up on the near shore, one for each of the two bridges. Convoys that arrived ahead of schedule and unauthorized convoys were held in the area until clearance was obtained. Similar marshalling areas were established on the far shore to received west bound traffic.

g. A traffic control system was established to regulate all movement to the bridges.

(1) A central control point at Corps headquarters directed all traffic.

(2) A sector control point, consisting of one G-4 traffic officer, a Military Police officer, and military police, was established in each marshalling area.

(3) A traffic control post, consisting of a Military Police officer and military police, was stationed at the eastern approach to all bridges.

(4) Military police were stationed at the western approach to all bridges.

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(5) A traffic control point, consisting of an officer and military police, was in charge of each marshalling area on the far shore. Initially they halted all west bound traffic and expedited east bound traffic. Later they controlled movement to bridges open to west bound traffic.

(6) A traffic control point was established at all DUKW and raft crossing sites.

h. The central control point notified all units of the time to arrive at a specific marshalling area. From the marshalling area to the bridges, roads were used exclusively for bridge traffic.

i. All bridges were initially for east bound traffic only. During breaks in traffic, west bound vehicles were permitted on bridges. Evacuation to the near shore was principally by DUKW and ferry. Convoys and individual vehicles moving west were halted in the marshalling areas on the far shore until cleared.

j. Traffic control points in marshalling areas and at bridges and the central traffic control point were in communication through a switchboard on the near bank of the river.

k. Units which crossed the bridges while they were under XV Corps control were as follows: the 353d AAA Battalion, the 173d Field Artillery Group, the 106th AAA Battalion, the 10th Field Hospital, the 260th Engineer Combat Battalion, 1101st Engineer Combat Group, the 214th AAA Battalion, the 63d Infantry Division, the 700th Ordnance Company, the 1277th Engineer Battalion, the 260th Engineer Battalion, the 257th Engineer Battalion, the 961st Field Artillery Battalion, the 165th Engineer Battalion, the 975th Field Artillery Battalion, the 208th Field Artillery Battalion, the 163d Engineer Battalion, the 208th Field Artillery Group, the 608th Engineer Light Equipment Company, the 44th Infantry Division, the 106th Cavalry Group, the 686th Field Artillery Battalion, the 515th Field Artillery Battalion, the 413th Field Artillery Group, the 630th Field Artillery Battalion, the 214th AAA Battalion, the 87th Chemical Battalion, the 62d AAA Battalion, the 490th Medical Company, the 12th Armored Division, 10th Field Hospital, 995th Field Artillery Battalion, the 278th Field Artillery Battalion, the 575th Field Artillery Battalion, the 6th Field Artillery Group, elements of the 10th Armored Division, the 933d Field Artillery Battalion, the 194th Field Artillery Battalion, the 87th Ordnance Company, the 937th Field Artillery Battalion, the 772d Field Artillery Battalion, the 1109th Engineer Group, elements of the 6638th Mine Clearing Company, the 932d Field Artillery Battalion, the 144th Field Artillery Group, the 529th Engineer Light Ponton Company, elements of the 12th Armored Division, the 798th AAA Battalion, and the 898th Field Artillery Battalion.

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XV Corps continued its attack to the east and expanded the Seventh Army bridgehead. The 44th Infantry Division captured MANNHEIM, and elements of the 3d Infantry Division reached the MAIN River in its zone. Strong enemy resistance was encountered on the extreme right portion of the Corps in MANNHEIM and on the extreme left portion of the Corps in SCHWEINHEIM (NO252). Only sporadic resistance was encountered along the remainder of the Corps front. Enemy artillery fire was moderate in the vicinity of MANNHEIM and was negligible along the remainder of the Corps front.

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Operations Instructions No 115 Seventh Army, dated 29 March, directed that the boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps, as assigned in Operations Instructions No 113 Seventh Army, dated 27 March, become effective at 1200, 29 March. (37).

Operations Instructions No 116 Seventh Army, dated 29 March, changed the temporary boundary between Third Army and Seventh Army (XV Corps), effective immediately, as follows: west of ALZEY (M2727), no change- ALZEY-OPPENHEIM (M4439) - GROS GERAU (M5347) - MORFELDEN (M5953) - LANGEN (M6754) DIETZENBACH (M7457) - HAINHAUSEN (M8161) - railroad bridge at (18668) - railroad track to GELNHAUSEN (N0479), all to Third Army. XV Corps was directed to relieve units of Third Army south of this boundary not later than 1800, 31 March. (38).

Operations Instructions No 160 XV Corps, dated 1530, 29 March, assigned right and left boundaries as indicated above and directed, in substance, that:

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions continue their present mission and prepare to resume their advance on Corps order;

The 12th Armored Division continue its present mission;

The 44th Infantry Division, upon relief by elements of XXI Corps, assemble in the vicinity of (M6224) and prepare for advance to the east or to the northeast on Corps order on six hours notice;

The 106th Cavalry Group cover the left flank of the Corps initially from the vicinity of KAHL A MAIN (M9163), maintain contact with the Third Army, and reconnoiter toward LOHR (N3156). (39).

a. The 44th Infantry Division continued its advance against strong enemy resistance and by the end of the period had captured MANNHEIM.

(1) The 71st Infantry, with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left, forced a crossing of the NECKAR River and captured MANNHEIM. The 1st Battalion at 1035 crossed the NECKAR River in assault boats in the vicinity of (R5399) and cleared that portion of MANNHEIM within its sector, against moderate automatic weapons and small arms fire. The 3d Battalion forced a crossing of the river in assault boats at 1250 against scattered enemy automatic weapons fire. The battalion continued to advance and by 1800 had cleared that portion of MANNHEIM within its sector. The 2d Battalion, initially in regimental reserve, crossed the river and cleared that portion of MANNHEIM in its sector between the 1st and 3d Battalions against moderate resistance.

(2) The 2d Battalion 324th Infantry captured NECKARSHAUSEN (R6296) at 0200 against slight enemy resistance. At 0240 the enemy counterattacked with an undetermined number of infantry, and elements on the battalion left were forced to withdraw about 200 yards. At 0739 the 3d Battalion crossed the NECKAR River to reinforce the regimental bridgehead, and took over the left half of the line held by the 2d Battalion. At 1000 the ground south of NECKARSHAUSEN (lost during darkness because of the enemy counterattack) was retaken. The 1st Battalion in regimental reserve, moved to positions north of NECKARSHAUSEN.

(3) The 114th Infantry continued its attack with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. By 0130 the 3d Battalion had seized

LUTZELSACHSEN (M6703) against strong small arms and automatic weapons fire. Advancing south against slight enemy opposition, the battalion took HEHENSACHSEN (M6602), GROSS-SACHSEN (M6601), LEUTERSHAUSEN (M6600), SCHRIESHEIM (R6697), and DOSENHEIM (R6795). At the close of the period the battalion was fighting against increasing resistance from enemy entrenched in the outskirts of DOSENHEIM. At 0800 the 2d Battalion continued its attack and engaged in numerous fire fights with small enemy delaying forces. By 2000 the battalion had captured ZIEGELHAUSEN (R7491). The 1st Battalion, in regimental reserve, moved at 1300 to reserve positions in the vicinity of SCHRIESHEIM.

b. The 3d Infantry Division continued its attack with its three infantry regiments abreast. Rapid advances were made against sporadic enemy resistance and by the end of the period elements of the 30th Infantry had taken WORTH (N0234).

(1) The 15th Infantry on the right continued its attack with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. Elements of the 1st Battalion, meeting no enemy resistance, took LUTZELBACH (M7914) and GROSS ELLENBACH (M8115) by 0800. Elements of the 3d Battalion, advancing against negligible opposition, took OBER OSTERN (M8020) and ERZBACH (M8120) by 0200, and by 0900 were in OBER HILTERSKLINGEN (M8317). By noon the 1st and 3d Battalions began to assemble in the vicinity of KIRCH BROMBACH (M8727) and the 1st Battalion began to assemble in the vicinity of BOLLSTEIN (M8527). By 2000 all battalions had closed in their respective areas.

(2) The 7th Infantry moved at 0900 from assembly areas in the vicinity of REICHELSCHEIM (M7924) to UNTER OSTERN (M8122) at which point the regiment attacked toward the east with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. No enemy opposition was encountered and by the end of the period the 3d Battalion had advanced to (M9221), the 2d Battalion had advanced to MOMARTE (M9225), and the 1st Battalion, in regimental reserve, had advanced to EVLBACH (M9721).

(3) The 30th Infantry advanced against negligible opposition with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion cleared WORTH (N0234) by 2010. At the end of the period the 1st and 3d Battalions in WORTH were preparing to cross the MAIN River. The 2d Battalion, in regimental reserve, was in the vicinity of (M9729).

c. The 45th Infantry Division expanded its bridgehead across the MAIN River against strong enemy resistance.

(1) The 179th Infantry continued its attack with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. Strong enemy defensive positions, including steel pillboxes, were encountered. Advancing slowly against strong automatic weapons, mortar, and self-propelled artillery fire, the 1st Battalion reached positions near (N0446) and the 2d Battalion reached positions near (N0349) as the period closed. The 3d Battalion, in regimental reserve, moved into positions behind the 2d Battalion at 1800.

(2) The 180th Infantry crossed the MAIN River on the bridge at (M9951) and attacked to the south with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. Only moderate enemy resistance was met throughout the day and by the end of the period KLEIN WALLSTADT (N0242) had been captured, the 1st Battalion had reached positions near (N0540), and the 3d Battalion had reached positions near (N0443). The 2d Battalion in regimental reserve reached positions near (N0243).

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(3) The 157th Infantry continued its attack with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. Extremely strong enemy resistance was encountered along the entire front from enemy automatic weapons, mortar, self-propelled artillery, and nebelwerfer fire. At the end of the period the regiment was engaged in stiff house-to-house fighting in SCHWEINHEIM (N0252) with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 1st Battalion in the center, and the 2d Battalion on the left.

d. The 12th Armored Division advanced up to 16 kilometers against numerous but weakly defended roadblocks. By the end of the period CCB had leading elements at (M9620) and (M9917), and CCA had leading elements at (M9604) and (M9210). CCR, in division reserve, followed CCB. The 92d Reconnaissance Squadron cleared the secondary routes between the axis of advance of CCA and CCB.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group reconnoitered the front of the 45th and 3d Infantry Divisions encountering slight resistance from small enemy delaying forces.

(1) Elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reached positions near (N0331), contacted elements of the 12th Armored Division in EIBACH (M9018), and by the end of the period were containing enemy forces in STEINBACH (M9031).

(2) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron found the bridges destroyed at WORTH, and at the close of the period were in contact with the enemy at (N0245).

f. XV Corps Artillery displaced to forward positions and fired no missions during the period.

g. XV Corps Engineers continued to support the advance of the infantry divisions and to maintain the roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew no missions in support of the XV Corps because of adverse weather conditions.

i. One thousand three hundred seventy-seven prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 64, the 44th Infantry Division 469, the 3d Infantry Division 309, the 45th Infantry Division 432, and the 12th Armored Division 103.

30. 30 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued to attack to the east and expanded the Seventh Army bridgehead. Strong enemy resistance was encountered in the vicinity of ASCHAFFENBURG (N0154) and sporadic resistance was encountered along the remainder of the Corps front. Enemy artillery activity was at a minimum along the Corps front, except in the vicinity of ASCHAFFENBURG where strong concentrations were directed on elements of the 45th Infantry Division. Elements of the XXI Corps attacked through positions of the 44th Infantry Division early in the period, and the division then assembled in the vicinity of HEDDESHEIM (M6202). Elements of the 106th Cavalry Group relieved elements of the XII Corps south of the XV Corps left boundary prior to the close of the period.

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Field Order 11 Seventh Army, dated 2200, 29 March, assigned a new boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps, effective 0001, 31 March, as follows: WORTH A MAIN (N0234) - ROTHENFELS (N3245) - KIEFSTADT (N4552) - SCHWEINFURT (N7763) - KONIGSBURG (O 0169), all inclusive to XXI Corps; and directed that:

The 12th Armored Division be attached to XXI Corps effective 0001, 31 March;

The 14th Armored Division pass to control of the XV Corps upon its arrival in the XV Corps zone;

XV Corps advance in its zone, seize the high ground southeast of FULDA (H3516), protect the right flank of Third Army, and reconnoiter to HEININGEN (H9022) and COBURG (C 3090).

Operations Instructions No 161 XV Corps, dated 1700, 30 March, directed in substance that:

The 12th Armored Division pass to control of XXI Corps, effective 0001, 31 March;

The 44th Infantry Division move at 0800 to the vicinity of HEDDESHEIM; and that effective 1415, 30 March, the 44th Infantry Division Artillery be attached to the 45th Infantry Division.

a. At 0330 elements of the 63d Infantry Division attacked through front line elements of the 44th Infantry Division. After being relieved, the 44th Infantry Division assembled and moved by foot to assembly areas in the vicinity of HEDDESHEIM.

(1) When elements of the 63d Infantry Division attacked through the front line units of the 114th Infantry at 0330, the regiment assembled and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of WEINHEIM (H6605), closing at 0630.

(2) By 0645 elements of the 63d Infantry Division had relieved elements of the 324th Infantry in positions. The regiment assembled and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of HEDDESHEIM, closing at 0915.

(3) At 0700 elements of the 63d Infantry Division attacked through the front line elements of the 71st Infantry. The regiment assembled and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of FUEDENHEIM (R5699), closing at 0830.

b. The 3d Infantry Division continued its attack and established a bridgehead across the MAIN River.

(1) The 15th Infantry moved from assembly areas in the vicinity of SECKMAUFEN (M9932), crossed the MAIN River, and passed through elements of the 30th Infantry with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. The regiment encountered only scattered enemy resistance throughout the day, and by the end of the period the 2d Battalion had reached positions in the vicinity of (N1231), the 3d Battalion had reached positions in the vicinity of (N0832), and the 1st Battalion, in regimental reserve, had reached positions in the vicinity of (N0430).

Ltr Hq XV Corps to TAG, file AG 314.7 (G) "After Action Report" 1 June 45.

(2) The 30th Infantry effected a crossing of the MAIN River and established defensive positions to protect the crossing of the remainder of the division. The 2d Battalion organized defensive positions along the line: (N0733) (N0734), and the 1st Battalion organized defensive positions along the line: SCHIPPACH (N0537) - STREIT (N0635). The 3d Battalion, in regimental reserve, was in the vicinity of ERLBACH (N0234).

(3) The 7th Infantry, in division reserve, was in the vicinity of TRENNFURT (N0232) throughout most of the day. At the close of the period the regiment was enroute across the MAIN River.

c. The 45th Infantry Division continued its attack and enlarged its bridgehead across the MAIN RIVER.

(1) The 180th Infantry attacked with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. Only scattered resistance was encountered throughout the day, and as the period closed the 1st Battalion had reached positions in the vicinity of RUCK (N0537) and (N0837), and the 2d Battalion had reached positions in the vicinity of (N0843) and (N0642). The 3d Battalion, in regimental reserve, crossed the MAIN River and assembled in the vicinity of (N0541).

(2) The 179th Infantry resumed its attack at 0930 with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. Strong enemy small arms, mortar, and self-propelled artillery fire was encountered. Late in the day the 3d Battalion was committed on the left of the 2d Battalion. The 3d Battalion repulsed two minor counterattacks at 2100 and at 2130 by undetermined numbers of enemy infantry. At the close of the period the three battalions held the line: (N0545) - (N0548) - (N9449).

(3) The 157th Infantry continued its attack against strong enemy automatic weapons, mortar, self-propelled artillery, and artillery fire. The 1st and 3d Battalions advanced slowly in house-to-house fighting in SCHWEINHEIM (N0251), and the 2d Battalion cleared the southeast outskirts of ASCHAFFENBURG (N0154).

d. The 12th Armored Division continued its attack and elements gained up to 30 kilometers prior to the close of the period.

(1) CCB attacked at 0400, encountered only scattered enemy resistance, and at the close of the period leading elements had reached the vicinity of (N2513).

(2) CCA attacked at 0600 and encountered only sporadic resistance. Elements cleared AMORBACH (N0717) by 1145, and prior to the end of the period had reached the vicinity of (N2327).

(3) CCR, following initially in the rear of CCB, attacked at 1100 to the southeast. Leading elements reached the vicinity of (N1601) prior to the close of the period.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group relieved elements of the Third Army by 1800 in its zone on the Corps left flank.

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(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron cleared the railroad bridge at SCHWEINHEIM (N0252) at 1314, and by 1800 had relieved elements of the Third Army along the line: (M9560) - (N0370).

(2) Elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of BÄRMELUSEN (18752) at 1330, and at 1515 closed in positions in the vicinity of (19157).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 64 unobserved and 28 observed missions on enemy targets along the Corps front.

g. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery reported three raids totalling five enemy planes over the Corps sector during the day. The 441st AAA AW Battalion claimed two of the planes damaged.

h. XV Corps Engineers continued to support the advance of the infantry divisions and to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps sector. A 360 foot class 40 treadway bridge was completed at 0430 in the vicinity of (R5399).

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 77 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. Twenty-four aircraft in close support of the 45th Infantry Division attacked with rockets, bombed, and strafed ASCHAFFENBURG and GAILBACH (N0550). The remainder of the aircraft flew armed reconnaissance missions over the Corps front.

j. Two thousand three hundred forty-one prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 418, the 44th Infantry Division 471, and the 3d Infantry Division 987, and the 45th Infantry Division 465.

31. 31 MARCH 1945.

XV Corps continued its attack to the east and expanded the Seventh Army bridgehead. Enemy resistance was moderate along the Corps right and Corps center; however, in the vicinity of ASCHAFFENBURG (N0154) strong, determined resistance continued. Enemy artillery activity was at a minimum throughout the day.

A field message from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding General 45th Infantry Division, dated 1440, 31 March, directed the division to relieve at once elements of the 106th Cavalry Group west of the MAIN River between a point near (M9260) and STOCKSTADT (M9554). (40).

Field Order 24 XV Corps, dated 1500 31 March, in compliance with Field Order 11 Seventh Army, 23 March, directed an advance to the northeast in the Corps zone to seize the high ground southeast of FULDA (I3516) and to protect the right flank of Third Army. The field order further directed that:

The 3d Infantry Division advance at once all elements within the zone of the XXI Corps to the north of the XV Corps boundary, seize that portion of the Corps objective within its zone, protect the right flank of XV Corps; and maintain contact with XXI Corps;

The 45th Infantry Division continue its advance, seize that portion of the Corps objective within its zone, and protect the Corps left flank;

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Ltr XV Corps to TAG file AG 314.7 (G) "After Action Report"

1 June 45.

The 44th Infantry Division assemble in Corps reserve in the vicinity of (M9055) and prepare for movement to the east or northeast on Corps order on six hours notice;

The 14th Armored Division move on 31 March to an assembly area in the vicinity of (M7840) and upon arrival in the Corps zone pass to the command of the Commanding General XV Corps;

The 106th Cavalry Group cover initially the left flank of the Corps from the vicinity of KAHLE A. LEIN (M9063), prepare on Corps order to cover the advance of the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions to the Corps objective, maintain contact with Third Army, and upon arrival on the Corps objective, reconnoiter toward COBURG (O 2988) and ILMENAU (J2436).

a. The 3d Infantry Division expanded its bridgehead across the LEIN River against moderate enemy resistance.

(1) The 15th Infantry attacked on the right of the division with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. Passing through the positions of the 30th Infantry and advancing against sporadic enemy resistance, the regiment by 1300 had captured ROLIBACH (N0931), ROLIFELD (N0430), GROSS-HUBACH (N0726), SCHMACHTENBERG (N0832), REISTENHAUSEN (N1431), FECHENBACH (N1531), and MILTENBERG (N0925). During the afternoon the 1st and 2d Battalions were relieved by elements of the 42d Infantry Division and assembled in the vicinity of ROLIFELD and RUCK (N0537) respectively. The 3d Battalion, in reserve, moved by motors from SCHMACHTENBERG (N0832) to an assembly area in the vicinity of HEIMBUCHENTHAL (N1244).

(2) The 7th Infantry on the left of the division attacked against moderate enemy resistance with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 2d Battalion cleared MONCHBERG (N1034) by 0732 against strong enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire, continued its advance against sporadic resistance, and by 1715 had cleared WILDENSEE (N1638) and HOFFWILDENSEE (N1637). At the end of the period the battalion was engaged in a strong fire fight in the southeast outskirts of KRAUSENBACH (N1541). At the beginning of the period the 1st Battalion engaged in a strong fire fight in ESCHAU (N0936) and did not clear the town until 0800.

Advancing rapidly against sporadic enemy resistance, the battalion cleared UNTERAULENBACH (N1138), WILDENSTEIN (N1237), and HOBBAH (N1040). At the end of the period the battalion was enroute to WINTERSBACH (N1341). The 3d Battalion, in reserve, made contact with the 12th Armored Division in the vicinity of MILTENBERG, and at 1100 moved to the vicinity of ESCHAU.

(3) The 30th Infantry held the line of departure for the 7th and 15th Infantry Regiments and when passed through by those regiments moved to the vicinity of MENCHENHARD (N0433) where it closed by 1330.

b. The 45th Infantry Division advanced its right against moderate enemy resistance and expanded its bridgehead across the LEIN River. However, the 157th Infantry on the division left in the vicinity of ASCHAFFENBURG made slow progress against strong enemy resistance.

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(1) Advancing against light enemy resistance, the 180th Infantry attacked with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. By the end of the period, the 1st Battalion had reached positions in the vicinity of (N1142) and (N1040), and the 2d Battalion had reached positions in the vicinity of (N1143) and (N1245). Elements of the 3d Battalion, in regimental reserve, were committed on the left of the 2d Battalion late in the day, but by the end of the period the battalion had assembled in the vicinity of LEIDERSBACH (N0646).

(2) The 179th Infantry resumed its attack at 0930 with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. The attack hit stiff enemy resistance initially, but during the afternoon encountered only sporadic resistance. By the end of the period leading elements of the 1st Battalion were at (N0947) and (N0847), and leading elements of the 2d Battalion were at (N1048) and (N1049). The 3d Battalion, in regimental reserve, remained in the vicinity of (N0649).

(3) The 157th Infantry continued its determined advance against strong enemy resistance from automatic weapons, mortar, and self-propelled artillery fire. Between 1300 and 1500 mortar rounds were fired by the enemy. The 1st Battalion attacked at 0630 around the right flank of the 3d Battalion against strong resistance and reached the vicinity of (N0450). The 3d Battalion cleared the barracks at the eastern edge of SCHWEINHEIM (N0251) and beat off numerous enemy attempts to infiltrate into their positions. The 2d Battalion continued fierce, house-to-house fighting in the southeastern outskirts of ASCHAFFENBURG.

c. The 44th Infantry Division remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of HEDDESHEIM (M6200). By the end of the period, elements of the 324th Infantry were in the process of relieving elements of the 106th Cavalry Group west of the MAIN River and south of KLEIN WELZHEIM (M9060).

d. The 106th Cavalry Group advanced at 1000 in its new zone against moderate enemy resistance.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron relieved elements of the 106th Cavalry Squadron by 1000 and attacked to the east clearing KILBERAU (M9756) and MICHELBAU (M9869). At the close of the period elements of the 44th Infantry Division were in the process of relieving elements of the squadron along the line: (M9456) - (M9062).

(2) After being relieved in positions at 1000 by elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attacked to the northeast against slight enemy opposition and cleared SOLBOM (M9872), ALTENMITTLAU (N0172), and NEUSS (N0700). By the end of the period leading elements had reached HORBACH (N0270).

e. XV Corps Artillery fired 15 observed and 185 unobserved missions throughout the period. Observed missions included one counterbattery mission, while the remainder were interdiction and registration missions. The bulk of the unobserved missions were harassing fires in the vicinity of ASCHAFFENBURG.

f. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery reported eight raids totalling nine planes over the Corps zone engaged by the 106th and 441st AAA AW Battalions and by the 798th and the 895th AAA AW Battalions (Mbl). No claims were made. The 353d AAA SL Battalion was in action from 2045 until 2400 in support of the 45th Infantry Division.

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Ltr. Hq XV Corps to TAG file AG 314.7 (G) "After Action Report"

1 June 45.

g. XV Corps Engineers continued to support the advance of the infantry divisions and cleared and maintained roads and bridges in the Corps zone. The railroad bridge across the MAIN (M9951) was converted for vehicular traffic.

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 825 sorties during the period. One hundred twenty sorties were flown in close support of XV Corps. Six flights of 12 planes each were flown in close support of the 3d Infantry Division. WINTERBACH (N1345) was bombed. Two hundred sixty-four sorties were flown in close support of the 45th Infantry Division. ASCHAFFENBURG, GAILBACH (N0650), HAILBACH (N0552), HESSENTHAL (N1241), and motor transport at (M9756) were attacked with rockets, bombed, and strafed. Long range missions were directed against the following targets: WURZBACH (N5835), LOHR (N3256), 100 boxcars, and 100 motor transport in the vicinity of (N3764), six Tiger tanks near (N2896), and a convoy of motor transport approaching WURZBACH from the east.

i. One thousand nine hundred seventy-nine prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 486, the 3d Infantry Division 803, the 44th Infantry Division 10, and the 45th Infantry Division 680.

SECTION III

SUMMARY

1. During March, XV Corps advanced nearly 200 miles and crossed one third of Germany. Remnants of 14 divisions, totalling an estimated 15,000 men, faced XV Corps during the month. Of this number, the enemy suffered an estimated 9,600 casualties. In addition, numerous small, non-divisional groups faced the Corps, and the total number of prisoners taken by the corps during the month of March was 22,507. XV Corps overran 16 enemy hospitals and two prisoner of war camps, liberating 2,134 Allied prisoners.

2. During the month of March, XV Corps destroyed 45 enemy tanks and 25 self-propelled artillery pieces.

3. As the month closed XV Corps had cross the MAIN River several times and was continuing its advance deeper into the heart of Germany. The greater part of the opposition encountered during the month was from hastily formed battle groups, loosely knit infantry detachments, and fanatical SS troops who were pledged to fight to the finish.

4. The report of XV Corps activities for March has been divided into three phases with an introduction and summary accompanying each phase. The divisions include: (1) the static period, from 1 - 11 March, (2) the assault of the SIEGFRIED LINE and breakthrough to the RHINE, from 12 - 21 March, and (3) the crossing of the RHINE river and rapid pursuit of the enemy, from 22 - 31 March.

Waide H. Haislip

WAIDE H. HAISLIP,
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

2 Incls

Incl 1 - Footnotes

Incl 2 - G-3 Journal and Journal File
for March 1945.

6 Annexes

Annex 1 - Report of AC of S, G-1

Annex 2 - Report of AC of S, G-2

Annex 3 - Report of C of S

Annex 4 - Report of AC of S, G-4

Annex 5 - Report of AC of S, G-5

Annex 6 - Photographic Annex

R E S T R I C T E D

F O O T N O T E S

<u>Footnote No</u>	<u>March Journal Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>
1	Movement Order File	Movement Order 7th Army 27 Feb 45
2		Operations Instruction No 84 7th Army 2 Mar 45
3	6	Verbal Message from CG 7th Army
4	7	Field Message to 71st Inf Division
5	10	Field Message to 71st and 100th Inf Divisions
6	Attachment Order File	7th Army Attachment Order, 15 March
7	Attachment Order File	7th Army Attachment Order, 15 March
8	18	Field Message to 71st and 100th Inf Divisions
9	18	Field Message to 100th Inf Division
10	20	Field Message to 100th Inf Division
11	20	Memorandum to 6th Armored Division
12	20	7th Army Operations Instructions 98
13	20	7th Army Operations Instructions 99
14	21	Operations Instructions No 148 XV Corps 21 March
15	21	Operations Instructions No 101 7th Army 21 March
16	22	Operations Instructions No 149 XV Corps 22 March
17	23	Operations Instructions No 104 7th Army 23 March
18	23	Operations Instructions No 150 XV Corps 23 March
19	24	Field Order 23 XV Corps, dated 2400 23 March
20	24	Operations Instructions No 151 XV Corps dated 1500 24 March

Incl 1 to Ltr XV Corps
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FOOTNOTES

<u>Footnote No.</u>	<u>March Journal Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>
21	24	Operations Instructions No 107 7th Army 24 March
22	24	Field Message from CG XV Corps to CGs 3d and 45th Inf Divisions
23	24	Operations Instructions No 152 XV Corps, dated 1930 24 March
24	25	Field Message from CG XV Corps to CG 7th Army dated 1030 25 March
25	25	Telephone Conversation from G-3 7th Army to G-3 XV Corps 25 March
26	25	TWX from 7th Army, dated 1751 25 March
27	26	Operations Instructions No 110 7th Army 26 March
28	26	Operations Instructions No 155 XV Corps 26 March
29	26	Field Message to CG 63d and 45th Inf Divisions 26 March
30	26	Field Message to CG 3d Inf Div and CO 106th Cav Gp 26 March
31	27	Field Message from CG XV Corps to CG 12th Armored Division
32	27	Field Message CG XV Corps to CGs 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions
33	27	Operations Instructions No 157 XV Corps dated 1800 27 March
34	28	Operations Instructions No 113 7th Army 27 March
35	28	Operations Instructions No 158 XV Corps, dated 0700 28 March
36	28	Operations Instructions No 159 XV Corps, dated 1100 28 March
37	29	Operations Instructions No 115 7th Army 29 March

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R E S T R I C T E D

~~FOOTNOTES~~

<u>Footnote No.</u>	<u>March Journal Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>
38	29	Operations Instructions No 116 7th Army
39	30	Operations Instructions No 160 XV Corps, dated 1530 29 March
40	31	Field Message to CG 44th Inf Division dated 1440 31 March

Incl 1 to Ltr XV Corps
AG 314.7 (G) dtd
June 1945.

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HEADQUARTERS
XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

AG 314.7 (G)

APO 436, US Army
1 June 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Report After.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.
(Thru: Commanding General, Seventh Army)

In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, Change 3, and Memorandum, Headquarters Seventh Army, file AG 314.7 Misc, dated 7 August 1944, the following report covering the operations of XV Corps during the period 1 April - 30 April 1945, both dates inclusive, is submitted.

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of April, 1945, XV Corps was composed of the 3d Infantry Division, the 45th Infantry Division, the 44th Infantry Division, the 14th Armored Division, the 106th Cavalry Group, and attached Corps troops.

XV Corps, with three infantry divisions abreast, was advancing rapidly to the northeast in a zone approximately 40 kilometers in width. The 3d Infantry Division was on the right, the 45th Infantry Division in the center, and the 44th Infantry Division on the left.

Resistance, except in defended towns, was conducted principally by ineffectiv hastily-formed battle groups. Towns were defended, for the most part, by tenacious enemy, commanded by determined leaders.

Supply was difficult because of the Corps' rapid advance but remained adequate. On occasion, trucks were taken from Corps units to move supplies from Seventh Army base depots to Corps' distributing points.

Note 1: Except where specifically indicated by footnotes, all information contained in this report is based upon XV Corps periodic reports and on subordinate unit G-3 and S-3 reports for April, 1945.

Note 2: All hours before 0200, 2 April, are "A" hours, British Summer Time: all hours thereafter are "B" hours, British Double Summer Time.

Note 3: All map references area to map GSGS 4416, Scale 1/100,000, Germany.

ATTACK NORTHEAST AND SEIZURE

OF THE HOHE RHON HILL MASS

1 - 10 April 1945

Attack Northeast To Corps' Objective

RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

SECTION II

NARRATIVE

1. 1 APRIL 1945:

XV Corps continued its attack to the northeast and met only sporadic enemy resistance on the Corps right and center. Resistance on the Corps left in the vicinity of ASCHAFFENBURG (N0154), however, continued to be strong. Enemy artillery activity was slight.

Operations Instructions No. 163 XV Corps, dated 2100, 1 April, directed, in substance, that: the 14th Armored Division cross the MAIN River by 0605, 2 April, pass through the zones of the 45th and 3d Infantry Divisions, cross the front lines in the zone of the 3d Infantry Division, and attack over all available route to seize the high ground in the vicinity of NEUSTADT (N7600) and OSTHEIM (H7610); upon arrival on its objective, to conduct a reconnaissance to the line: BAMBERG (O2648) - COBURG (O3090) - ILMENAU (N2436), prepared to move east or southeast on Corps order. (1)

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued its advance against moderate enemy resistance.

(1) The 7th Infantry, on the division right, continued attacking to the northeast and by 1800 had captured ERLENFURTH (N2450) and LICHTENAU (N2350) without enemy opposition. The 1st Battalion, after clearing WINTERSBACH (N1341) against slight enemy resistance, passed through the positions of the 3d Battalion at 2130 and continued the attack to the northeast. The 2d Battalion captured KRAUSENBACH (N1541) after a stiff fire fight, and remained there throughout the day in reserve positions.

(2) Elements of the 15th Infantry, on the division left, relieved elements of the 45th Infantry Division in the new 3d Infantry Division zone. The 1st Battalion passed through the 3d Battalion in WEIBERSBRUNN (N1750) and attacked against small arms and self-propelled artillery fire to capture ROTHENBUCH (N1953) by 1800. The 2d Battalion remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of (N1244).

(3) The 30th Infantry remained in division reserve in the vicinity of MONCHBERG (N1033).

b. The 45th Infantry Division continued its attack and met strong enemy resistance in the vicinity of ASCHAFFENBURG and moderate enemy resistance along the remainder of the division front.

(1) The 2d Battalion 179th Infantry attacked on the right against moderate resistance from small enemy delaying forces and cleared DORRMORBACH (N0750), OBER-BESSANBACH (N0851), and STRASS-BESSANBACH (N0852), and by 1900 had secured positions in the vicinity of (N0952). The 3d Battalion, on the left, cleared GAILBACH (N0550) and occupied Hill 312 (N0753). The 1st Battalion, in regimental reserve, moved to an assembly area near USDEN (N0648).

(2) The 157th Infantry continued its attack on ASCHAFFENBURG and its suburbs against stiff resistance. The 1st Battalion, on the right, cleared GAILBACH and attacked to the north reaching positions near (N0553) by the end

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of the period. Fighting from house to house, the 3d Battalion cleared SCHWEINHEIM (N0251). The 2d Battalion, on the left, continued its advance in the southern outskirts of ASCHAFFENBURG against stiff opposition. By the end of the period enemy resistance appeared to be decreasing.

(3) The 180th Infantry, in division reserve, moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of (N0550).

c. Elements of the 44th Infantry Division completed relief of elements of the 106th Cavalry Group and attacked to the southeast.

(1) The 3d Battalion 114th Infantry occupied positions along the west bank of the MAIN River from (M9259) to (N0053). The 1st and 2d Battalions remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of HEDDESHEIM (M6200).

(2) The 324th Infantry completed relief of elements of the 106th Cavalry Group along the line: (M9261) - (M9767) - (M9976). The 1st Battalion attacked to clear mountain passes to the southeast, and by 2015 had captured BRUCKEN (N0066), HEMBACH (M9864), and HOLH (M9862) against moderate enemy resistance. The 3d Battalion, following the 1st Battalion occupied positions to the left of the 1st Battalion near HOLH. The 2d Battalion remained in its assembly area near HEDDESHEIM.

(3) The 71st Infantry, less two anti-tank platoons maintaining security guard on the west bank of the MAIN River between (M8960) and (N9259), remained in its assembly area in the vicinity of HEDDESHEIM.

d. The 14th Armored Division closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of REINHEIM (M7937). At 1630 the division was alerted for an attack to the east.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued its attack to the northeast and encountered only sporadic sniper fire. Road blocks and blown bridges hindered its advance.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attacked northeast and captured HORBACH against slight enemy resistance. The squadron then advanced to WIRTHEIM (N0981) where it by-passed a blown bridge. At 1730 elements were outposting SÄLMUNSTER (N1788).

(2) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, after being relieved on positions by elements of the 44th Infantry Division, advanced against slight opposition to the vicinity of (N0777), (N0776), and (N1080), where they were relieved by elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. The squadron then closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of (M9774).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired 14 observed and 12 unobserved missions during the period. Observed missions were fired on enemy vehicles and personnel, and the unobserved missions were fired between 2215 and 2230 on the NEUHUTTEN (N2057) area.

g. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery reported that two ME-262's bombed and strafed BABENHAUSEN (M8752). The 895th AAA AW Battalion engaged these planes and claimed damage to one.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), Sub: After Action Rpt for Apr 45, dtd 1 June 45.

h. XV Corps Engineers continued to support the attack by clearing and maintaining roads and bridges in the Corps zone. A heavy ponton bridge was completed at 1800 at GROSS WALSTADT (NO243).

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 423 sorties in support of XV Corps. Twelve aircraft bombed and strafed NEUHUTTEN (N2158) in close support of the 3d Infantry Division. One hundred sixty-eight aircraft bombed and strafed LAUFACH (N1158), KEILBERG (NO954), STRASS BESSANBACH (NO954), HALBACH (NO553), HOSBACH (NO557), GOLDBACH (NO456), ASCHAFFENBURG, and troop concentrations in the vicinity of (NO354) and (NO353) in close support of the 45th Infantry Division.

j. One thousand seven hundred and twenty-six prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 10, the 3d Infantry Division 316, the 44th Infantry Division 24, and the 45th Infantry Division 1376.

2. 2 APRIL 1945:

XV Corps continued its advance to the northeast against sporadic enemy resistance along the entire Corps front, with the greatest advances being made on the right flank where the 14th Armored Division pushed to LOHR (N3157). Elements of the 45th Infantry Division continued to meet strong resistance in the ASCHAFFENBURG pocket which had been by-passed. There was no enemy artillery activity during the period.

Operations Instructions No 165 XV Corps, dated 1100 2 April, directed in substance that the 44th Infantry Division move by foot and motors on 2 April to the vicinity of (N9868) and be prepared on Corps order to advance north of the line: FRAMERSBACH (N2464) - KLEIN OSTHEIM (N9456) and take over the zone and mission of the 45th Infantry Division. (2)

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued its attack to the northeast meeting only scattered enemy resistance.

(1) The 7th Infantry, on the right, attacked with the 1st and 2d Battalions passing through the 3d Battalion in the vicinity of LICHTENAU (N2350). The 2d Battalion, on the right, cleared WOBACH (N3155) by 1915 against moderate small arms fire. The 1st Battalion met moderate resistance from small arms and anti-tank fire as it cleared RECHTENBACH (N2755), but at the end of the period was meeting only occasional small arms fire as it continued its attack to the northeast. The 3d Battalion, in regimental reserve, moved to the vicinity of (N2351).

(2) The 15th Infantry attacked with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left and encountered only slight resistance from small enemy delaying forces. By the end of the period the 2d Battalion had cleared NEUHUTTEN (N2057), KORMENTHAL (N2359), and WIESTHAL (N1260). The 3d Battalion at 2200 took FRAMERSBACH (N2464), and as the period closed was continuing its unopposed advance to the east. The 1st Battalion, in regimental reserve, remained in ROTHENBUCH (N1953).

(3) The 30th Infantry remained in reserve in the vicinity of MONCHBERG (N1033).

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b. The two leading regiments of the 45th Infantry Division at 0730 resumed their attack to the northeast. The 157th Infantry continued to meet determined resistance in ASCHAFFENBURG.

(1) The 179th Infantry met no resistance as it attacked in its zone with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion on the left, and the 1st Battalion in reserve. By the close of the period, leading elements had reached the vicinity of (N1864).

(2) Meeting only slight small arms opposition, elements of the 180th Infantry at the end of the period had reached the following positions: the 2d Battalion at (N0857), the 1st Battalion at (N0765), and the 3d Battalion at (N0157).

(3) The 157th Infantry continued to attack ASCHAFFENBURG from the south and made slow progress against strong enemy small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire. The 3d Battalion attacked to the north toward the east section of the town and by 2400 had reached its outskirts after fierce house-to-house fighting. The 2d Battalion made a slight advance in the southern section of the town after engaging in house-to-house fighting. The 1st Battalion at 1000 attacked to the right of the 3d Battalion and after a strong fight cleared GOLDBACH (N0356) and HOSBACH (N0557).

c. The 44th Infantry Division utilizing only one regiment in its attack advanced against no enemy opposition.

(1) The 324th Infantry with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left advanced to the line: ROTHENGRUND (N0063) - MOMBIS (N0264) - DORNSTEINBACH (N0366) - GIESELBACH (N0470). At 2130 the 3d Battalion was relieved on positions by elements of the 71st Infantry. The 1st Battalion in regimental reserve advanced to the vicinity of GROSS HEISBACH (N9846).

(2) The 71st Infantry at 1800 closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of SOMBORN (N9872). The 3d Battalion at 2130 relieved elements of the 324th Infantry on positions along the line: DORNSTEINBACH-GIESELBACH.

(3) The 114th Infantry closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of (M9368). At 1700 the 2d Battalion relieved elements of the 106th Cavalry Group in BAD ORB (N1582).

d. The 14th Armored Division at 1145 attacked through the front line elements of the 3d Infantry Division, and by the end of the period leading elements had reached LOHR (N3055).

(1) CCA advanced against scattered enemy opposition, and by the end of the period was fighting against stiff small arms and self-propelled artillery fire in LOHR.

(2) CCB followed by CCR advanced against scattered opposition, and by the end of the period had reached PARTENSTEIN (N2761).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued its mission of protecting the Corps left flank.

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(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, with elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attached, secured BAD ORB (N1581) (a town containing an Allied prisoner of war camp) until relieved at 1700 by elements of the 44th Infantry Division.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, less attachments to the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, moved slowly northeast along the main road from WERTHEIM (N0981). Road craters and blown bridges delayed the advance. Elements of the squadron by-passed small enemy pocket near (N2090) and at 1800 entered SCHLUCHTERN (N2796) without opposition.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired three observed and 12 unobserved missions on enemy personnel in the Corps zone. During the night, six harassing missions were fired on ASCHAFFENBURG, and harassing fire was placed on the area northeast of LOHR (N3156).

g. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery engaged a total of twelve enemy aircraft in three raids in the Corps zone. The 441st AAA AW Battalion fired one mission in support of the 45th Infantry Division on enemy personnel in the vicinity of (N1755).

h. XV Corps Engineers continued to support the advance of the Corps by clearing and maintaining roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 120 sorties in support of XV Corps. Twenty-four sorties, in close support of the 3d Infantry Division, bombed LOHR (N3156) by radar. Seventy-two sorties, flown in close support of the 45th Infantry Division, bombed and strafed the northwest section of ASCHAFFENBURG. The remainder of the sorties, on armed reconnaissance missions, bombed and strafed enemy motor traffic in the Corps zone.

j. One thousand nine hundred nineteen prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 107, the 3d Infantry Division 406, the 44th Infantry Division 183, and the 44th Infantry Division 1223. In addition, 9077 Allied prisoners were liberated.

3. 3 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps continued its advance and encountered only isolated enemy pockets defending towns and roadblocks in the Corps center and on the Corps left. On the Corps right in the vicinity of LOHR (N8156), however, enemy resistance was stronger. Elements of the 45th Infantry Division wiped out the ASCHAFFENBURG pocket, after initially meeting strong resistance. No enemy artillery fire was reported throughout the period.

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued its advance to the northeast over rough terrain against sporadic enemy resistance.

(1) The 7th Infantry on the division right met only sniper fire as it continued its attack. The 2d Battalion, on the right, shortly after dark crossed the MAIN River in assault boats and DUKWs in the vicinity of (N3353) and patrolled to PFLOCHSBACH (N3353) and HAUSEN (N3753) without enemy contact. The 1st Battalion on the left advanced against no opposition and at the end of

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the period was nearing (N2837). The 3d Battalion, in regimental reserve, moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (N2655).

(2) The 15th Infantry, on the left, continued its attack with one battalion against no enemy resistance. The 2d Battalion attacked at 1600, and by 1800 had cleared RUPPERSHUTTEN (N2964) and was advancing without enemy contact. The 3d Battalion, initially blocking in FRAMERSBACH (N2464), followed the 2d Battalion. The 1st Battalion assembled in regimental reserve in FRAMERSBACH.

(3) The 30th Infantry moved to a forward assembly area. The 1st Battalion moved to the vicinity of (N2345), and the 2d Battalion to the vicinity of (N2154), both closing by 1400. The 3d Battalion, in division reserve, moved to the vicinity of (N1953).

b. Elements of the 45th Infantry Division cleared ASCHLEFFENBURG during the day after breaking strong enemy resistance. Forward elements, northeast of ASCHLEFFENBURG, advanced against a series of brief fire fights.

(1) The 179th Infantry, on the right, resumed its attack to the northeast in a column of battalions against sporadic resistance. The 2d Battalion, in the lead, by the end of the period had reached the vicinity of (N3431) after several small arms encounters. The 1st Battalion, following the 2d Battalion, reached the vicinity of (N3518). The 3d Battalion remained in the vicinity of (N1760).

(2) The 180th Infantry continued its advance, encountering scattered enemy pockets in towns and near road blocks. The 3d Battalion advanced to BURJUS (N2479), followed by the 1st Battalion which, by the end of the period, occupied PFAFFENHAUSEN (N2475). The 2d Battalion followed the regiment's advance to positions in the vicinity of FLORSBACH (N2071).

(3) The 157th Infantry continued its assault on ASCHLEFFENBURG against initially strong resistance, and during the morning cleared the town. The regiment closed at 1915 in the vicinity of GOLDBACH (N0356) and HOSBACH (N0557).

c. The 44th Infantry Division, less one regiment, continued to maintain its positions without enemy contact.

(1) The 114th Infantry, less the 3d Battalion, closed in BAD ORB (N1582) at 1945, where it joined the 2d Battalion. The 3d Battalion guarded bridges and ferries across the MAIN River.

(2) The 324th Infantry remained in position along the general line: ROTHENGRUND (N0062) - GEISELBACH (N0470). The 3d Battalion moved to a new assembly area in the vicinity of HORSTEIN (N9562).

(3) The 71st Infantry continued to maintain the line: HALLER (N0177) - HORBACH (N0272).

d. The 14th Armored Division continued its attack with CCB on the right and CCA on the left.

(1) At 0615 CCB continued its attack on LOHR (N3157) against strong enemy small arms, bazooka, and self-propelled artillery fire, and cleared the

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town by 1730. Crossing the LOHR River elements of CCB attacked against light small arms fire and at the end of the period had reached NEUNDORF (N3661).

(2) CCA captured PARTENSTEIN (N2761) at 1100, continued to attack to the northeast, and captured RENGERSBERUN (N2970) by 2020. Both towns were defended by strong small arms and bazooka fire. Other elements of CCA by-passed a defended roadblock at (N2367) and cleared AURA (N3177) by 1900.

(3) CCR followed in the rear of CCB, prepared on order to pass through CCB.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued its attack to the northeast and protected the Corps left flank.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron moved northeast and cleared the towns of AISBERG (N2187), SEIDENROTH (N2287), and BELLINGS (N2691) against slight enemy resistance. The squadron reduced a defended roadblock northwest of MARJOSS (N2786) and captured the town against moderate small arms fire.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron met no opposition as it secured and outposted SALLUNSTER (N1687), STEINAU (N2291), SCHULCHTERN (N2795), and FLINDEN (L2903).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired harassing missions on HAUSEN (N3752), and one observed mission on enemy vehicles and personnel in the vicinity of (N3071).

g. XV Corps Engineers supported the Corps advance by clearing and maintaining roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 56 sorties in close support of XV Corps during the period. Forty missions flown in support of the 14th Armored Division bombed and strafed NEUNDORF (N3761), NANTENBACH (N3660), STEINBACH (N3358), SACKENBACH (N3358), and LOHR (N3158).

i. Eleven hundred and eighty-four prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 22, the 3d Infantry Division 197, the 44th Infantry Division 240, the 45th Infantry Division 585, and the 14th Armored Division 140. One thousand eight hundred and forty-three Allied prisoners were liberated.

4. 4 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps continued its attack to the northeast against moderate enemy resistance on its right and light resistance on its left. Enemy artillery activity was slight.

Operations Instructions No 122 Seventh Army, dated 4 April directed in substance that:

The boundary between Third Army and Seventh Army (XV Corps) be extended as follows: west of FULDA (H3819), no change; FULDA (to Seventh Army) - MENINGEN (H9022) - COBURG (O 3089) - BAYREUTH (O 7556), all to Third Army;

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The boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps, effective 0001 6 April, is changed as follows: WORTH (N0233) - CAUSSEL (H5662) - EBENHAUSEN (H7172) - HASSFURT (H9961) - BOURGEBACH (O 1841), all inclusive to XV Corps;

XV Corps complete its present mission and occupy its initial objective, the area in the vicinity of GERSFELD (H5808); thereafter advance to the south-east, secure its second objective, the road net in the vicinity of KONIGSHOFEN (N9493), and be prepared to release one infantry division to Army control on twenty-four hours notice. (5).

Operations Instructions No 166 XV Corps, dated 1100, 4 April, directed that the 44th Infantry Division move without delay to the vicinity of (N0876), continue to protect the Corps left flank, and maintain contact with elements of Third Army. (3)

Operations Instructions No 167 XV Corps, dated 2100, 4 April, directed in substance that:

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions advance in their zones to seize the areas in the vicinity of (H6000) and (H6515), respectively, and be prepared to advance to the east or southeast on Corps order;

The 44th Infantry Division be prepared to move on Corps order to the vicinity of (H5310);

The 14th Armored Division continue its present mission;

The 106th Cavalry Group continue its present mission; on arrival in the FULDA (H3818) area, move east to the vicinity of (H6020), and be prepared on Corps order to move to the east or southeast. (4)

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued its advance to the north and northeast against slight enemy resistance.

(1) The 7th Infantry, on the division right, cleared the peninsula formed by the bend in the MAIN River in the vicinity of (N3961) while meeting only scattered enemy sniper fire. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion was prepared to cross the MAIN River in the vicinity of (N4162) to attack GEMUNDEN (N4064) from the northwest.

(2) The 15th Infantry, on the division left, continued its attack to the north and northeast and encountered only sporadic enemy small arms fire. By the end of the period the 1st Battalion, on the right, had cleared REINECK (N3758) and SHALPACH (N3862), and the 3d Battalion, on the left, had cleared WOHNROTH (N3073) and FELEN (N3274). The 2d Battalion remained in its reserve positions near WIETHAL (N1260).

(3) The 30th Infantry, in reserve, was enroute at the close of the period from FRAMERSBACH (N2464) to a new assembly area in the vicinity of REINECK (N3768).

b. The 45th Infantry Division continued to advance in its zone against isolated enemy strong points.

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(1) The 179th Infantry, on the division right, advanced in a column of battalions with the 1st Battalion leading. After several brief fire fights leading elements of the 1st Battalion at the close of the period were at (N4592) followed by the 2d and 3d Battalions in that order.

(2) Advancing against scattered enemy pockets of resistance the 180th Infantry crossed the SINN River. At the end of the period the 3d Battalion, on the right, was near (N3384), the 1st Battalion, on the left, was near (N3791), and the 2d Battalion, in reserve, was near (N2786).

(3) The 157th Infantry moved by motors to an assembly area in the vicinity of (N2476).

c. The 44th Infantry Division, in Corps reserve, continued to clear areas by-passed by the assaulting echelons.

(1) The 3d Battalion 114th Infantry joined the remainder of the regiment in the vicinity of BAD ORB (N1582) at 1700.

(2) The 324th Infantry moved to a new assembly area in the vicinity of (N0875), closing by 2350.

(3) The 3d Battalion 71st Infantry, meeting no enemy resistance, cleared the town of WESTERN (N0769), HOFSTADEN (N0668), and HUCKELHEIM (N0770). The remainder of the regiment maintained the line: HALLER (N0177) - HORBACH (N0272).

d. The 14th Armored Division continued its attack and encountered moderate enemy resistance in towns and from road blocks along its routes of advance.

(1) CCB, on the right, cleared LANGENPROZELTEN (N3764) while meeting small arms and bazooka fire, and by the end of the period had advanced to the outskirts of GEMUNDEN (N4063).

(2) CCA continued its attack at 0645 and cleared FELLERN (N3274) and BURGINN (N3672) after stiff fire fights. Resistance then decreased and CCA advanced rapidly and reached BRUCKENAU (N4692) by the end of the period.

(3) CCR was prepared to advance through CCB.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued its mission of protecting the Corps left flank.

(1) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied SALMUNSTER (N1687), STEINAU (N2391), and ELM (N2997).

(2) Elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied NEUSTADT (H3307), KETZEL (H3711), and FLIEDEN (H3004).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired harassing missions on six small towns in the area southeast of REINECK (N3667). All units continued to displace forward.

g. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain roads and bridges within the Corps zone.

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h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 192 sorties in close support of XV Corps. GEMUNDEN (N4063), SEITREIDSBURG (N4460), MORLESAU (N4772), the marshalling yards at HAINELSBURG (N5471), and seven tanks near (N4760) were attacked with rockets, bombed, and strafed.

i. Two thousand three hundred and twenty-six prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 32, the 3d Infantry Division 521, the 44th Infantry Division 183, the 45th Infantry Division 790, and the 14th Armored Division 800. Two hundred and twenty Allied prisoners were liberated during the period.

5. 5 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps continued its attack to the northeast against slight enemy resistance and advanced up to 35 kilometers in the center portion of the zone and an average of 20 kilometers along the remainder of its front. Enemy artillery activity remained slight.

a. The 3d Infantry Division, on the Corps right, continued its attack to the northeast against scattered infantry resistance.

(1) The 30th Infantry attacked on the left of elements of the 7th Infantry and met light small arms fire. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left had cleared SCHOENAU (N4266), WOLFMUNSTER (N4367), and GRAFENDORF (N4371) by the close of the period. The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (N4265) and (N4166).

(2) Meeting only sniper fire, the 1st Battalion 15th Infantry led the regiment's advance and cleared HEILIGKREUZ (N4279), DRIESTEIZHAF (N4588), MODLOS (N4587), and MITGENFELD (N4990). The 2d Battalion followed the advance into HEILIGKREUZ. The 3d Battalion moved to reserve positions in the vicinity of REINECK (N3768).

(3) The 7th Infantry, less the 2d Battalion, assembled in reserve in the vicinity of WOLBACH (N3154) and STEINTHALERHOF (N4058). At 2100 the 2d Battalion crossed the MAIN River in the vicinity of (N4161) meeting no resistance and attacked GEMUNDEN (N4063) from the southeast. At the close of the period the battalion had cleared half the town against moderate small arms and artillery fire and had contacted elements of the 14th Armored Division in the town.

b. The 45th Infantry Division continued its advance against slight resistance.

(1) The 179th Infantry, on the division right, resumed its attack with one battalion at 0800. The 1st Battalion, in the lead, met defended road blocks and enemy delaying groups in towns along its route of advance. At the close of the period the battalion had taken KOTHEN (N4498). The 3d Battalion followed the advance of the 1st Battalion and occupied positions in the vicinity of (N4397) and (N4391). The 2d Battalion assembled in regimental reserve in the vicinity of ZEIFLOPS (N3886).

(2) The 180th Infantry resumed its attack against slight opposition with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion had reached SCHLIMAU (N4608) and the 2d Battalion had reached (N4003) by the end of the period. The 3d Battalion, in regimental reserve in the vicinity of (N4206), protected the regiment's left flank.

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(3) The 157th Infantry, in division reserve, moved by motors to an assembly area in the vicinity of (N3598) and closed at 2000.

c. The 44th Infantry Division, in Corps reserve, remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of (N0885). Elements of the division continued to guard bridges and ferries along the MAIN River.

d. The 14th Armored Division committed CCR in addition to its two other combat commands and continued its advance against sporadic enemy resistance in towns and at road blocks.

(1) CCB resumed its attack on GELUNDEN against small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire, and at the close of the period had contacted elements of the 3d Infantry Division that had attacked the town from the southeast.

(2) CCR crossed the SINN River in the vicinity of BURGSINN (N3673), cleared MICHELAU (N4570), and advanced to HORSLESAN (N4870) where, at the end of the period, a blown bridge with mined approaches delayed its advance.

(3) CCA continued its attack at daylight against moderate enemy resistance, and at the end of the period elements were reported in VOLKERSLEIER (N4678), RIEDENBERG (N5193), and MITGENFELD (N4996).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group advanced to the northeast without enemy opposition and protected the left flank of the Corps.

(1) Advancing at daybreak, elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron met no enemy as they cleared RUCKERS (H3102), HUTTEN (N3399), VERTSTEINBACH (H3500), BACHENBERG (H4070), and SCHONENHOF (N3506).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron advanced at 1300 and found WISSELSROD (H4417) and DIETERSHOF (H4616) clear. Elements of the squadron contacted elements of the Third Army at (H4820) and (H4917).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired registration missions during the period.

g. XV Corps Engineers constructed 80 foot class 40 Bailey bridges at (N3095) and (N3690) and continued to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 150 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. Eighty sorties, in close support of the 14th Armored Division, bombed and strafed SEIFREIDSBURG (N4466), ASCHENROTH (N4567), WAITZENBACH (N4674), WINDHEIM (N5074), HAMELSBURG (N5370), and STEINACH (N6890). The remainder of the sorties were flown on armed reconnaissance over the Corps zone.

i. One thousand three hundred and twenty-seven prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the day: Corps troops captured 203, the 3d Infantry Division 610, the 14th Armored Division 310, and the 44th Infantry Division 204.

6. 6 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps continued its advance to the northeast and gained up to 15 kilometers against sporadic enemy resistance. Enemy artillery was inactive.

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Operations Instructions No 168 XV Corps dated 1130 6 April directed in substance that:

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions and the 14th Armored Division rapidly clear and occupy their assigned objectives in the HOHE RHON hill mass;

The boundary between the 3d Infantry Division, on the right, and the 45th Infantry Division, on the left, be as follows: BICHOFSHEIM (N6102) to the 3d Infantry Division, OBER ELSBACH (N6907) to the 45th Infantry Division, and NEUSTADT (N7694) to the 3d Infantry Division;

The 44th Infantry Division move 7 April to an assembly area in the vicinity of (N2684);

The 106th Cavalry Group clear its assigned objective in the HOHE RHON hill mass and continue its advance by routes north of the Corps objective to the vicinity of KONIGSHOFEN (N9565), and reconnoiter to the line: BAMBERG (O 2748) inclusive - COBURG (O 3089) exclusive. (6).

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued its advance against slight enemy resistance.

(1) The 30th Infantry, on the right, advanced with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left against sporadic enemy resistance. At the close of the period elements of the 2d Battalion had reached the vicinity of (N5574), and the 3d Battalion had cleared HASSENBACH (N5832). The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of WINDHEIM (N5074).

(2) The 1st Battalion 7th Infantry moved by motors to GERODA (N5489) and occupied PLATZ (N5488) with no enemy opposition. The remainder of the regiment, initially in reserve, was enroute to follow the 1st Battalion at the end of the period.

(3) The 15th Infantry, on the left, continued its advance in a column of battalions. The 3d Battalion, in the lead, reached WILDFLECKEN (N5499) at the close of the period, and the 2d Battalion by that time had reached OBER-LLEICH-TERSACH (N4788). The 1st Battalion, in BRUCKENAU (N4692), supported elements of the 14th Armored Division.

b. The 45th Infantry Division continued its advance against sporadic small arms fire.

(1) The 179th Infantry attacked to the northeast with the 1st Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion had cleared NEUGLASHUTEN (N4899), WERBER (N4796), ROTHERLIN (N5096), ALTGLASHUTEN (N5099), and REUSSENDORF (N5200) and the 3d Battalion had reached (N5606) by the end of the period. The 2d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of KOTHEN (N4498).

(2) The 180th Infantry attacked with its three battalions abreast against weak resistance. By the end of the period, the 2d Battalion, on the right, had reached (H6114), the 1st Battalion, in the center, had reached (H7015) and the 3d Battalion, on the left, had reached (H6518).

(3) The 157th Infantry moved by motors to a reserve position in the vicinity of SCHMIDAU (H4608).

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c. The 44th Infantry Division remained in Corps reserve in the vicinity of (N0885) and conducted a training program.

d. The 14th Armored Division met moderate small arms, tank, and mortar fire in the GEMUNDEN (N4064) area, but elsewhere it advanced against slight enemy opposition.

(1) CCB, initially on the right, after passing through GEMUNDEN reduced a defended road block and advanced its main body to the vicinity of HESSDORF (N4764). Elements advanced without enemy opposition to (N5567).

(2) CCA, on the left, attacked north at 0645, cleared SUNDERLING (N5185) and STRANGEROOTH (N6090), and by the end of the period reported elements in WILF-FLECKEN (H5400).

(3) CCR crossed the MAIN River at GEMUNDEN behind CCB, and fanned out on the Corps right flank. At the end of the period CCR had reached (N4770) against slight enemy opposition.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to protect the left flank of the Corps. There was no enemy opposition.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron cleared SBSTRADA (H5514), SEIFERTS (H6117), WICKERS (H5918), WILDERS (H6022), and LEMPERS (H7019).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron outposted NEUSTADT (H3807) FLIEDEN (H3003), and WAYERS (H4812), and reconnoitered roads to LIEBHARDS (H5620) and KLEINSASSEN (H5219).

f. XV Corps Artillery units continued to displace forward and fired no missions during the day.

g. XV Corps Engineers completed a 40 foot Class 40 Bailey Bridge at ZEIFLOS (N3686) and continued to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

h. The XII Tactical Air Force flew no missions in close support of XV Corps during the period because of adverse weather conditions.

i. Thirty-two prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the day: Corps troops captured 7, the 3d Infantry Division 2, the 44th Infantry Division 11 and the 45th Infantry Division 12.

7. 7 APRIL 1945:

XV Corps met strong opposition on its right flank and slight resistance in the remainder of the Corps zone as it advanced an average of 15 kilometers during the period. Enemy artillery was slight.

Operations Instructions No. 169 XV Corps dated 1430, 7 April, issued in compliance with Operations Instructions No. 124 Seventh Army, dated 7 April, directed in substance, that the 44th Infantry Division move 8 April to an assembly area in the vicinity of GROSSRINDERFELD (N4420); upon arrival there be relieved from attachment to XV Corps, and revert to Seventh Army reserve.

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Operations Instructions No. 170 XV Corps, dated 1603, 7 April, directed, in substance, that:

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions advance without delay, pass through the 14th Armored Division, and secure the Corps objective in their respective division zones as designated in Operations Instructions No. 168 XV Corps, 6 April;

The 14th Armored Division clear the roads by 0600, 8 April, for passage of 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions, resume movement to present objective on Corps order only, and be prepared to continue movement on Corps order to the vicinity of ROMHILD (H9903);

The 106th Cavalry Group advance without delay to the vicinity of KONIGSHOFEN (N9592) and reconnoiter to the line: BAMBERG (O2748) inclusive - CCBURG (O3089), exclusive. (9)

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued its advance against moderate enemy resistance and crossed the SALLE River.

(1) The 30th Infantry, on the right, advanced against slight opposition. Attacking on the right, the 2d Battalion had, by the close of the period, cleared HAMMELBURG (N5470), FEURERTHAL (N5774), ELFSERSHAUSEN (N5974), and AURA (N6276). The 3d Battalion entered BAD KISSLINGEN (N6780) without opposition and crossed the SALLE RIVER there. The 1st Battalion remained in reserve in the vicinity of (N6080).

The 7th Infantry, in the center, continued its advance against small arms fire on the right portion of the zone, and tank supported infantry on the left portion of the zone. The 1st Battalion, on the right, took ASCHACH (N6686) after a fire fight, and continued its attack to cross the SALLE River in the vicinity of (N6788). At the close of the period the 3d Battalion battled in STEINACH (N6890) against stiff, tank supported enemy opposition. The 2d Battalion assembled in reserve in the vicinity of BRUKERDROTH (N6188).

(3) The 15th Infantry in conjunction with elements of the 14th Armored Division, attacked on its left flank against slight resistance. The 2d Battalion, initially on the right, attacked to the northeast and cleared ORBEISENBRUN (H5743) and BISCHOFSSHEIM (H6102). The 3d Battalion moved northeast from LANGENLEITEN (N5994), and by the close of the period had reached (N6298) and (N6496). The 1st Battalion, initially on the left, attacked with elements of the 14th Armored Division along the axis BISCHOFSSHEIM (H6102) - NEUSTADT (N7694) against moderate resistance, and by the close of the period had occupied NEUSTADT.

b. The 45th Infantry Division advanced without enemy opposition and secured its objective. The 157th Infantry, on the right, assembled in the vicinity of (N5708), (N6114), and (N5613). The 179th Infantry, on the left, assembled in the vicinity of (N6606), (N7007), and (N6907). The 180th Infantry, in reserve, remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of FLADUGEN (N7016).

c. The 44th Infantry Division, in Corps reserve, continued to maintain security guards on installations in the Corps zone and to conduct small unit training in an assembly area in the vicinity of (N0885).

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d. The 14th Armored Division advanced against slight resistance initially, but at the end of the period two combat commands were engaged in stiff fire fights on the division right flank.

(1) CCR, on the right, continued its attack against light opposition and by 0630 had occupied HUNDSPACH (N5359) and OBSERSWELD (N5460). When forward elements reached the vicinity of (N6467) they met opposition from dug-in tanks, small arms fire, and self-propelled artillery fire, and at the end of the period were reconnoitering a route to by-pass the resistance.

(2) CCB attacked WASSERLOSEN (N6468) at 1755 and at the end of the period were still receiving strong small arms, artillery, mortar, and self-propelled artillery fire from the town.

(3) CCL on the left, met moderate resistance as it cleared SANIBURG (N6196), WALBURG (N6095), and NEUSTADT (N7694).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group met sporadic small arms fire as it advanced to the east.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered areas and routes in its zone, and cleared KATTENSUNDEHEIM (N7226), herpa (N8423), HENNEBERG (H8514), OSTHEIM (H7710), and MEPPERS (H7019).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron cleared the woods west of BATTEN (H6120), and by the end of the period had closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of OSTHEIM.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired one mission on retreating columns of horse drawn artillery in the vicinity of WEGFURT (H6702) during the day, and fired 15 harassing missions after dark on enemy held towns in the 3d Infantry Division zone.

g. The 353d AAA S/L Battalion of XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery illuminated the zone of the 3d Infantry Division.

h. XV Corps Engineers completed a Class 40 timber trestle bridge in the vicinity of LOHR (N3156), and continued to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 54 sorties in close support of XV Corps. Sixteen sorties in close support of the 3d Infantry Division bombed, strafed, and attacked with rockets MUMMERSTADT (N7586), STEINBACH (N6890), and antiaircraft artillery positions in the vicinity of (N7157).

j. Two thousand two hundred and fifty-one prisoners were captured during the period: Corps troops captured 242, the 3d Infantry Division 526, the 14th Armored Division 675, the 44th Infantry Division 301, and the 45th Infantry Division 507.

8. 8 APRIL 1945:

XV Corps advanced rapidly to the southeast against slight enemy opposition, passed the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions through the 14th Armored Division, and reached the Corps objective. Enemy artillery was moderate on the right, and inactive in the remaining portions of the Corps zone."

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Field Message No. 36, dated 1125, 8 April, from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding Generals, 3d Infantry Division and 14th Armored Division, confirmed oral instructions of the Commanding General XV Corps and directed, in substance, that CCB, 14th Armored Division, be attached immediately to the 3d Infantry Division to assist in securing the 3d Infantry Division objective northeast of SCHWEINFURT (H7864), and, upon completion of this mission, revert to control of the 14th Armored Division, on Corps order. (10)

a. The 3d Infantry Division, with CCB 14th Armored Division attached, advanced to the east and southeast and by the end of the period elements had reached the west portion of the Corps objective in the division zone.

(1) The 30th Infantry met scattered small arms fire and moderate light caliber artillery fire as it attacked southeast from BAD KISSINGEN (N6680). The 3d Battalion resumed its attack, cleared dug-in enemy from the vicinity of (N7380) and at the end of the period had taken RANNUINGEN (N7676). Late in the period, the 1st Battalion crossed the SALLE River at BAD KISSINGEN, attacked on the regiment's right flank and met scattered resistance as it cleared PFERSDORF (N7372) and PFANDHAUSEN (N7674). The 2d Battalion moved to a reserve position at RIEDERWEISEN (N6878).

(2) Attacking with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left, the 7th Infantry met moderate resistance. The 2d Battalion advanced to (N8283), where the 1st Battalion passed through it at the close of the period. The 3d Battalions advanced to ALTHAUSEN (N7785), and patrolled to BRUNN (N7885).

(3) The 15th Infantry met sniper fire as it cleared the area from BISCHOFSEIM (H6102) to NEUSTADT (N7694), and at the end of the period was assembled in the vicinity of HOHENROTH (N7393).

b. The 45th Infantry Division attacked against scattered enemy resistance.

(1) The 179th Infantry attacked on the division right, with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left and by 1700 leading elements were on the Corps objective in the vicinity of (N8882).

(2) The 180th Infantry, on the left, attacked to the southeast and assisted the 106th Cavalry Group in the capture of KONIGSHOFEN (N9492). The 2d Battalion, on the right, and the 3d Battalion, on the left, by the end of the period had reached the Corps objective in the vicinity of (N9789).

(3) The 157th Infantry remained in reserve in the vicinity of (N6114).

c. The 44th Infantry Division, relieved from attachment to XV Corps, was enroute to the vicinity of GROSS RINDERFELD (N4420).

d. The 14th Armored Division cleared UNSLEBEN (N7999) and MUNNERSTADT (N7586) before 0600, and moved off the roads to allow passage of the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions. CCA assembled in the vicinity of (N7595), and CCR in the vicinity of (N6265). CCB, in the vicinity of (N7478), was attached to the 3d Infantry Division at 1100.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group covered the advance of the 45th Infantry Division

R E S T R I C T E D

Ltr Hq XV Corps to TAG file AG 314.7 (G) "After Action Rpts" dated 1 June 45

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron attacked to the southeast at 0700 and advanced rapidly against negligible resistance until reaching KONIGSHOFEN (N9492) where it met stiff opposition. The town was cleared by 1440 after a two-hour fire fight. Elements then advanced to SALZDORF (00136) against slight enemy opposition.

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, in reserve, maintained contact with elements of the Third Army, and by the end of the period had advanced to the vicinity of KONIGSHOFEN.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired six observed missions on enemy batteries, observation posts, and troop concentrations on the Corps front. During the night 24 harassing missions were fired.

g. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery engaged one enemy liaison type plane over the Corps zone with negative results.

h. XV Corps Engineers completed an 80 foot Class 40 Bailey bridge at BAD KISSINGEN (N6680), a 40 foot Class 40 Bailey bridge at (N3382), a 48 foot Class 40 treadway bridge at (N5399) and at (N4893), and maintained roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 189 sorties in support of XV Corps. Thirty sorties in close support of the 3d Infantry Division bombed PFANDHAUSEN (N7674), RANNUGEN (N7676), and MUNNERSTADT (N7586). Twenty sorties flown in close support of the 45th Infantry Division bombed, strafed, and attacked with rockets gun positions at (N9989) and (N9689), and motor transport at (N9393). Long range missions were flown on marshalling yards at BAMBERG (02651) and COBURG (N03090).

j. One thousand nine hundred and forty-three prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the day: Corps troops captured 182, the 3d Infantry Division 101, the 14th Armored Division 773, and the 45th Infantry Division 887.

9. 9 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps met slight enemy opposition as it completed the seizure of its objective during the period. Moderate large caliber enemy artillery fire fell on the right portion of the Corps zone, in the 3d Infantry Division zone, but enemy artillery activity on the remainder of the Corps front was slight.

a. The 3d Infantry Division (OCB, 14th Armored Division, attached) continued its advance against slight enemy resistance.

(1) The 30th Infantry, on the right, advanced to the southeast. The 1st Battalion, on the right, and the 3d Battalion on the left, occupied MASSBACH (N8179), VOLKERHAUSEN (N8377), and WIEPOLTSHAUSEN (N8171) during the period. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve in the vicinity of RIEDERWEISEN (N6878).

(2) The 7th Infantry attacked with all three battalions against sporadic small arms resistance. By the end of the period elements of the 2d Battalion, on the right, were at (N9575) and the remainder at (N9374); the 3d Battalion had advanced to the vicinity of (N9477) and the 1st Battalion, on the left, to (N9177).

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(3) The 15th Infantry assembled as division reserve in the vicinity of RAINNUNGEN (N7677), and elements guarded BISCHOFFSHEIM (N6102) and NEUSTADT (N7694).

b. The 45th Infantry Division continued to clear its portion of the Corps objective.

(1) The 179th Infantry with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left, advanced against slight opposition. By the end of the period the 2d and 3d Battalions were in the vicinity of (N9378) and (N9482), respectively, and the 1st Battalion, in regimental reserve, was at (N9080).

(2) The 180th Infantry attacked to the southeast at 0730 with the 2d Battalion on the right, 3d Battalion on the left, and the 1st Battalion in reserve. Enemy resistance was slight. By the end of the period, the 2d and 3d Battalions had reached (N9687) and (N9889), respectively. The 1st Battalion moved by motors to an assembly area in the vicinity of IOTHAUSEN (N9592).

(3) The 157th Infantry remained in division reserve in the vicinity of GERSFELD (N5507).

c. The 14th Armored Division, less CCB and elements of CCA, moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (N7900).

(1) CCB remained attached to the 3d Infantry Division.

(2) Elements of CCA relieved elements of the 106th Cavalry Group on the Corps left flank, patrolled from the vicinity of (H8909) to the vicinity of (H9309), and contacted elements of XII Corps.

d. The 106th Cavalry Group protected the Corps left flank.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered in the direction of BAMBERG (O 2649) to the line: FISCHBACH (O 1674) - HEILIGERSDORF (O 2178) - GELUNDA (O 1985) - HELDEBURG (O 1391).

(2) Elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, in reserve, closed in the vicinity of GELLERSHAUSEN (O 1192) at 1900.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired three registration missions, one harassing mission on enemy personnel, and, after dark fired harassing missions on SCHWEINFURT (N7863).

f. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 71 foot two-way class 40 timber trestle bridge at (N7593), a 60 foot class 40 Bailey bridge in the vicinity of NEUSTADT (N7593), and a 50 foot one-way class 40 timber trestle bridge at MOTTGERS (N3690).

g. XII Tactical Air Force flew 72 sorties in support of XV Corps. Eighteen sorties flown in close support of the 3d Infantry Division, bombed and strafed horse drawn transport at (N8872) and motor transport and horse drawn artillery in the vicinity of (N8774). A long range mission bombed railroad marshalling yards at BAMBERG (O 2649).

h. Three thousand fourteen prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 202, the 3d Infantry Division 1203, the 45th Infantry Division 1120, and the 14th Armored Division 489.

R E S T R I C T E D

Ltr Hq XV Corps to TAG file AG 314.7 (G) "After Action Report"

1 June 45.

10. 10 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps remained on its objective during the period, patrolled to its front with intermittent enemy contact, and mopped up by-passed enemy in the rear area of its zone. Moderate light caliber enemy artillery fire from the southeast fell on the Corps right flank in the 3d Infantry Division zone.

Operations Instructions No 171 XV Corps, dated 1200 10 April, announced an extension of temporary boundaries between XV Corps and Third Army on the left, and XXI Corps on the right, in compliance with Operations Instructions No 122 Seventh Army, dated 4 April; and directed in substance that:

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions reconnoiter in their respective zones and be prepared to advance on Corps order;

The 14th Armored Division assume command of COB, maintain contact with Third Army on the left and XXI Corps on the right, cover the left flank of the Corps north of the line: COBURG (O 2988) - HELDBURG (O 1290) - KONIGSHOFEN (N9492), and be prepared, on Corps order, to advance in its zone;

The 106th Cavalry Group continue its present mission south of the line: COBURG-HELDURG-KONIGSHOFEN-NEUSTADT. (11).

a. The 3d Infantry Division made intermittent enemy contact as it patrolled to the east and southeast. By-passed enemy within the division zone were mopped up.

(1) The 30th Infantry, on the right, patrolled aggressively against slight opposition. At the end of the period the three battalions maintained their positions on the Corps objective. The 2d Battalion, on the right, was in the vicinity of (N7580), the 1st Battalion near (N8582), and the 3d Battalion, on the left, near (N3484).

(2) The 7th Infantry, on the division left, patrolled to its front and cleared the division rear area with six motorized and six armored patrols. Battalions were located, throughout the period, as follows: the 2d Battalion, on the right, near (N9483), the 3d Battalion near (N9486), and the 1st Battalion, on the left, near (N9286).

(3) Elements of the 15th Infantry occupied HILBACH (N7969), and the regiment continued to patrol to its front. During the period the 1st Battalion remained in the vicinity of (N7487), the 2d Battalion was near (N7840), and the 3d Battalion was near (N8685).

b. Elements of the 45th Infantry Division made limited objective attacks as the division maintained its positions on the Corps objective and patrolled to its front.

(1) The 2d and 3d Battalions of the 179th Infantry met slight opposition as they cleared the area to the regiment's front. The 2d Battalion, on the right, took HAPERSHAUSEN (N9577) and HAUSEN (N9276). The 3d Battalion took MASSACH (N9480) and BIRNFELD (N9281). The 1st Battalion assembled in the vicinity of WETZHAUSEN (N9080).

~~RESTRICTED~~

(2) The 180th Infantry made no enemy contact as it patrolled to the east and southeast. The 2d Battalion, on the right, remained in the vicinity of (N9887), and the 3d Battalion was near (N9990). The 1st Battalion maintained in reserve positions in the vicinity of (N9492).

(3) The 157th Infantry, in division reserve, closed in the vicinity of SALL (N8694) at 1030.

c. The 14th Armored Division maintained contact with elements of Third Army and patrolled roads in the Corps zone. CCB, relieved of attachment to the 3d Infantry Division at 1615, reverted to the 14th Armored Division.

(1) CCB, from its position in the vicinity of (N8672), patrolled the Corps right flank.

(2) CCA and CCR, at (N7898) and (H8008) respectively, patrolled roads in the Corps zone.

d. The 106th Cavalry Group reconnoitered to the northeast, east, and southeast, forward of front line positions, and met no enemy oppositions.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied ALBARDORF (O-1171) HOCHSTADTER (O 1673), GEREATH (O 2074), and LERSBACH (O 2374).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered to the northeast from HELDBURG (O 1391) and entered HOLZHAUSEN (O 1493) with no opposition.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired four registration missions during the period. Sixteen unobserved harassing missions were fired on antiaircraft artillery positions in the vicinity of SCHWEINFURT (N7863) to assist XII Corps. During the night, harassing missions were fired on MARKSTEINACH (N8666).

f. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery reported two raids during the period. One unidentified plane strafed in the vicinity of (N9951), and another strafed in the vicinity of NEUSTADT (N7694). No damage was reported and no claims were made.

g. XV Corps Engineers completed an 80 foot class 40 treadway bridge at HAMMELBURG (N5369) and a 55 foot one-way class 70, two-way class 40 steel stringer bridge at (N3686).

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 80 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. Forty sorties, in close support of the 3d Infantry Division, bombed and strafed troop concentrations in ZIEL (N9560), HASZFURT (N9862), and PRAPPACH (N0265) (N0265). Forty sorties on long range missions bombed railroad yards at (O 3978) and marshalling yards at LICHTENFELS (O 3777).

i. One thousand one hundred and seventy-nine prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 256; the 3d Infantry Division 407, the 45th Infantry Division 358, and the 14th Armored Division 158.

SUMMARY

By 10 April XV Corps had captured the high ground in the vicinity of GERSFELD, its objective assigned in Operations Instructions No 122, Seventh

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

Ltr Hq XV Corps to TAG file AG 314.7 (G) "After Action Report"

1 June 45.

Army, dated 4 April.

Resistance during the first ten days of the month had been strong only in towns along the Corps axis of advance. No large scale prepared enemy positions had been met. The enemy was still off balance from the rapid breakthrough of the SIEGFRIED LINE, the crossing of the RHINE River, and the continued pursuit since that time.

At no time did the Corps encounter a full-strength enemy division. The rapid exploitation of our successes in the SIEGFRIED LINE had broken the German army in the west. The enemy replacement system ceased to function; some hard-hit enemy divisions broke into battle groups; in other cases divisions completely disintegrated.

Towns were resolutely defended. In ASCHAFFENBURG, for example, the enemy made his first determined stand since the defense of the SIEGFRIED LINE. Elements of the 256th, 36th, and 416th Infantry Divisions and several battle groups under command of the garrison commander of the town put up fanatical resistance. The commander attempted to mobilize the citizens of the town to aid in its defense, and several civilians were reported hanged because they objected to this policy. Several German officers were also reported hanged because they attempted to surrender. This terror campaign resulted in exceptional resistance on the part of the troops defending the town.

The enemy situation of 10 April was such that only a large pool of reserves could forestall a German catastrophe.

Supply of the rapidly moving Corps was difficult; trucks were furnished by Corps units to haul supplies from Army to Corps dumps. DUKW battalions, under Corps control, also assisted in bringing up rations and gasoline.

AND CAPTURE OF NURNBERG

15 April - Envelopment. of NURNBERG

16-20 April - The Capture of NURNBERG

R E S T R I C T E D

Ltr. Hq XV Corps to TAG file AG 314.7 (G) "After Action Report"

1 June 45.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

XV Corps now shifted from its attack to the northeast and began its advance to the southeast with its objective the road net in the vicinity of KONIGSHOFEN, as directed by Operations Instructions No 122 Seventh Army, dated 4 April 1945.

On 10 April, XV Corps consisted of the 3d Infantry Division, the 45th Infantry Division, the 14th Armored Division, the 106th Cavalry Group, and attached Corps troops.

The enemy facing the Corps appeared to be capable of strong uncoordinated defenses of towns, but it was believed no enemy line would be met until the area of the German National Redoubt was reached. Even then it appeared unlikely that a strong line would be encountered, because the rapid advance of the Allied Forces had kept the Germans off balance, and the efficient air cooperation furnished XV Corps had allowed the enemy no freedom of movement.

11. 11 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps resumed its attack to the southeast at 1500 against slight enemy opposition. Moderate light caliber artillery fire fell on the Corps right flank in the 3d Infantry Division zone.

Operations Instructions No 171 XV Corps, dated 1500 11 April, issued in compliance with the oral orders of the Commanding General Seventh Army that XV Corps advance in its zone conforming to the advance of the right of Third Army, directed in substance that:

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions advance in their zones without delay;

The 14th Armored Division advance in its zone, maintain contact with Third Army on the left, and with one combat command, maintain contact with XXI Corps on the right;

The 106th Cavalry Group reconnoiter to the line: BALBERG (O 2649) inclusive - COBURG (O 3090) exclusive. (12) (13).

a. The 3d Infantry Division on the Corps right attacked at 1530 to the southeast against slight opposition and secured a bridgehead across the MAIN River.

(1) The 30th Infantry attacked in its zone and crossed the MAIN River with two battalions. After occupying LOFFLESTETZ (N8869) and securing a line of departure for elements of the 42d Infantry Division, the 1st Battalion crossed the MAIN River in the vicinity of (N9160) with no opposition. The 3d Battalion, on the left, advanced to SAILERSHAUSEN (N9465) and then followed the 1st Battalion across the MAIN. The 2d Battalion advanced to BUCH (N9264).

(2) The 7th Infantry met moderate small arms fire as it attacked with the 2d Battalion on the right, the 3d Battalion on the left, and the 1st Battalion in reserve. Leading elements had taken HOLTZHAUSEN (N9768), UNCHENHOFEN (N9667), HELLINGEN (O 0169), and ROLLERSHOFEN (O 0967) by the close of the period.

[REDACTED]

(3) The 3d Battalion 15th Infantry patrolled south of the 30th Infantry zone and cleared GADHEIM (N8661) by the close of the period. The regiment remained in reserve in the vicinity of (N8270).

b. The 45th Infantry Division resumed its attack at 1500 and made rapid progress against slight opposition.

(1) The 179th Infantry on the division right attacked with two battalions abreast against sporadic resistance. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left had reached KONIGSBERG (O 0268) and WASSENBRUN (O 1168), respectively, by the end of the period. The 3d Battalion assembled in OSTHEIM (N9973) in regimental reserve.

(2) Attacking on the division left, the 180th Infantry met slight enemy resistance. By the close of the period the 2d Battalion on the right had cleared GERACH (O 1963), RECKENDORF (O 2162), and BANNACH (O 2367), and the 3d Battalion had cleared RATTELDORF (O 2562). The 1st Battalion assembled in the vicinity of EBERN (O 1870) in regimental reserve.

(3) The 157th Infantry remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of (N8694) in division reserve.

c. The 14th Armored Division protected both flanks of the Corps without enemy contact and moved to new assembly areas.

(1) CCB assembled in the vicinity of (N8672) protected the Corps right flank, and maintained contact with elements of XXI Corps.

(2) CCA closed at 1900 in an assembly area in the vicinity of GLEICHHAMBERG (JO300).

(3) Elements of CCR protected the Corps left flank and the remainder of the Combat Command moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of BEDHEIM (JO702).

d. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to reconnoiter in the Corps zone. Elements met slight resistance when they seized a crossing over the MAIN River.

(1) At 1400 elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron captured a ford across the MAIN River in the vicinity of NIEDERAU (O 2970).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron advanced to LICHTENFELS (O 3777) and cleared the portion of the town west of the MAIN River. Elements of the squadron found blown bridges across the MAIN River at UNNERSDORF (O 3274) and NEDENS DORF (O 3173).

e. XV Corps Artillery fired three observed missions during the day and harassed enemy occupied towns in the 3d Infantry Division zone.

f. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery reported two unidentified planes which were not engaged over the Corps zone during darkness. The 353d AAA Searchlight Battalion illuminated the zone of the 3d Infantry Division.

g. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

R E S T R I C T E D

Ltr Hq XV Corps to TAG file AG 314.7 (G) "After Action Report" 1 June 45.

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 108 sorties in support of XV Corps. Forty-eight aircraft bombed and strafed troop concentrations in the vicinity of HASZFUERT (N9863) and Gestapo headquarters at BRAMBERT (O 0970) in support of the 3d Infantry Division. The remainder of the sorties were flown on WESTHEIM (N9857), BURGEBRACH (O 0970), BAMBERG (O 2749), and on 29 aircraft on the BAYREUTH (O 7557) airfield.

i. One hundred six prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 12, the 3d Infantry Division 47, the 45th Infantry Division 39, and the 14th Armored Division 8.

12. 12 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps continued its advance against sporadic enemy resistance, exploited its bridgehead across the MAIN River in the 3d Infantry Division zone, and crossed in four additional places. Enemy artillery activity remained slight.

Operations Instructions No 173 XV Corps, dated 1200, 12 April directed in substance that:

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions capture BAMBERG (O 2649) and continue their attack, the 3d Infantry Division to seize the high ground in the vicinity (O 2047), and the 45th Infantry Division to seize the high ground in the vicinity of (O 3550);

The 14th Armored Division, less one combat command, capture LICHTENFELS (O 3777) and establish a bridgehead across the MAIN River in that vicinity, protect both flanks of the Corps, and, with one combat command, protect the 3d Infantry Division bridgehead east of the MAIN River in the vicinity of HASZFUERT (N9862);

The 106th Cavalry Group continue to reconnoiter the zones of the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions to the NURNBERG (O 4200) - BAYREUTH (O 7657) Autobahn, both cities exclusive. (14)

Operations Instructions No 175, XV Corps, dated 2400 12 April, directed in substance that:

The 14th Armored Division move CCB, beginning at 0700, 13 April, to the area: KALTENBRUNN (O 2474) - GROSSHEIRATH (O 2980);

The 3d Infantry Division continue its present mission, protect the right flank of the Corps, and maintain contact with XXI Corps. (14a).

a. The 3d Infantry Division expanded its bridgehead across the MAIN River and advanced rapidly against small enemy delaying forces.

(1) The 30th Infantry on the division right met slight small arms resistance as it advanced with two battalions abreast. The 1st Battalion on the right captured DAMPACH (N9258) and WESTHEIM (N9856) and had reached the vicinity of (N8571) by the end of the period. The 3d Battalion on the left advanced from WULFINGEN (N9962) to the vicinity of (O 0256). The 2d Battalion assembled in the vicinity of (O 0256),

~~RESTRICTED~~

(2) The 15th Infantry attacking on the left met sporadic resistance. The 3d Battalion on the right cleared BAYERHOF (N8863) and UTENDORF (N8961). The 2d Battalion on the left took ZELL (O 0355), OBER and UNTER SCHLEICHACH (O 0658), and ELTMAN (O 1056). The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (N9858).

(3) The 7th Infantry cleared an area on the division's left, and at the end of the period was enroute to an assembly area in the vicinity of (N9655). The 1st Battalion cleared HASZPURT (N9862) at 1215 against scattered resistance. The 3d Battalion took PRAPPACH (O 0265), and the 2d Battalion cleared AUGSFELD (O 0161).

b. The 45th Infantry Division continued its attack at daylight, crossed the MAIN River at two points, and repulsed an estimated two company enemy counter-attack on its bridgehead.

(1) The 179th Infantry attacked southeast against sporadic resistance. The 2d Battalion on the right advanced to LUSSBERG (O 1561), and the 1st Battalion on the left reached GLEISEMAU (O 1158) by the end of the period. The 3d Battalion in reserve moved to the vicinity of KIRCHLAUTER (O 1364).

(2) Two battalions of the 180th Infantry crossed the MAIN River during the period. The 2d and 3d Battalions crossed without opposition near (O 2458) and OBERBRUNN (O 2967), respectively. After the 3d Battalion had advanced to the vicinity of (O 2655) it repulsed with small arms and machine gun fire a counter-attack estimated at two infantry companies. The 1st Battalion followed the 3d Battalion and cleared GUNDELSHEIM (O 2853).

(3) The 157th Infantry moved from its reserve position at EBERN (O 1870) and late in the period attacked in the left of the division zone. At the end of the period the 2d and 3d Battalions had reached (O 2957) and (O 3059) respectively, and the 1st Battalion was enroute to join the remainder of the regiment.

c. The 14th Armored Division advanced with little opposition and crossed the MAIN River.

(1) CCB on the right protected the Corps right flank, and at the end of the period was prepared to move to an assembly area in the vicinity of KALTENBRUNN (O 2474).

(2) CCR attacked in two columns on the division right, made first contact with the enemy at LICHTENSFELS (O 3777), and cleared the town against moderate small arms fire.

(3) CCA attacked on the left and crossed the MAIN River in the vicinity of PERSFELD (O 3269) without enemy opposition. At the end of the period CCA had enlarged its bridgehead to include STAFFELSTEIN (O 3372).

d. The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron of the 106th Cavalry Group forded the MAIN River at NIEDERAU (O 2969) without enemy opposition and continued its advance to the southeast. The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron assembled in reserve in the vicinity of (O 3575).

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e. XV Corps Artillery fired ten registration missions and 30 unobserved harassing missions during the period.

f. XV Corps Engineers completed a 90 foot timber trestle bridge at GEMUNDEN (N4061); a 70 foot class 40 Bailey bridge at (O 1869); a 90 foot two-way class 40, one-way class 70 pile bent bridge at HAMBELBURG (N5371); and a 216 foot floating treadway bridge at (N9460).

g. XII Tactical Air Force flew 60 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. Aircraft bombed and strafed HERSCHAU (O 3440), an airfield at (O 7962), motor transport in the vicinity of (O 4359) and (O 4755), an airfield at (O 2908), and railroad yards at (O 7467).

h. Eighty-one prisoners were captured in Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 3, 3d Infantry Division 4, the 45th Infantry Division 8, and the 14th Armored Division 66.

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XV Corps crossed the remainder of its combat troops over the MAIN River and advanced 20 kilometers to the southeast against slight resistance. Elements of the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions cleared BAMBERG (O 2648) with the exception of an island in the center of the city.

Operations Instructions No 131 Seventh Army, dated 13 April, announced that, effective 0600, 14 April, the boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps would be the line: HOCHSTADT (O 2128)(joint use) - ERLANGEN (O 3716) - NURNBERG (O 4200)(both to XV Corps) - FURTH (O 3502)(to XXI Corps), and directed in substance that:

XV Corps capture NURNBERG, seize the NURNBERG-BAYREUTH (O 7657) autobahn in its zone, maintain contact with Third Army, reconnoiter to the line: NEUMARKT (T7182) - SULZBACH (O 8908) - MARKTREDWITZ (P1165), and prepare to continue its advance to the southeast on Army order;

XXI Corps assist XV Corps in the capture of NURNBERG. (15).

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued to pursue the disorganized enemy to the southeast.

(1) The 30th Infantry on the right met isolated enemy resistance as it cleared the wooded area in its portion of the division zone. The 1st Battalion on the right of the regiment advanced to DIPPACH (O 1338), while the 3d Battalion advanced to OBER HAINSBACH (O 1940) and patrolled to STAPPENBACH (O 2030). The 2d Battalion remained in reserve.

(2) The 15th Infantry advanced rapidly with little enemy opposition. The 3d Battalion on the right had reached the vicinity of (O 2744), and the 2d Battalion had cleared the southwest portion of BAMBERG (O 2648) by the end of the period. Initially in reserve, the 1st Battalion passed through the 3d Battalion and at 2020 attacked toward the vicinity of (O 2539).

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(3) The 7th Infantry in reserve closed in the vicinity of WOHNAU (N9555) at 0830 and protected the division's right flank from the vicinity of (O 0545) to (N9556).

b. The 45th Infantry Division in the Corps center attacked against sporadic resistance north of the MAIN River in its zone.

(1) The 180th Infantry on the division's right cleared that portion of BALBERG north of the REGNITZ River, and at the close of the period was prepared to attack the island within the city. The 1st Battalion on the right cut the main road leading southeast out of BALBERG near (O 2648), and the 3d Battalion on the left cleared HALLSTADT (O 2552) and reached the northern outskirts of BALBERG by 1200. During the afternoon the two battalions attacked abreast and met scattered resistance in BALBERG. The 2d Battalion assembled in the vicinity of (O 2750).

(2) The 157th Infantry crossed the MAIN River near (O 2760) and attacked to the southeast in the former zone of the 180th Infantry against moderate resistance. The 2d Battalion on the right advanced to (O 3553) and (O 3452), while the 3d Battalion on the left reached (O 3855) and (O 3555). After crossing the MAIN River the 1st Battalion assembled in regimental reserve in the vicinity of (O 2860). The 3d Battalion 179th Infantry, attached to the 157th Infantry, attacked late in the period and reached the vicinity of (O 3350) on the regiment's right flank.

(3) The 179th Infantry, less the 3d Battalion, cleared the division zone north of the MAIN River and assembled in the vicinity of (O 2850).

c. The 14th Armored Division crossed the MAIN River and met stiff resistance on its left flank as it attacked southeast with two combat commands.

(1) CCR on the right crossed the MAIN River at BANZ (O 3375) and at LICHTENSFELS (O 3776), attacked to the southeast against scattered resistance, and occupied WONSEES (O 5559) by the end of the period.

(2) CCA attacked on the division left after it crossed the MAIN River in the vicinity of UNNERSDORF (O 3274). The combat command cleared STADELHOFEN (O 4861) and HOLLFELD (O 5455) and at the end of the period was meeting stiff resistance in SCHESLITZ (O 3658).

(3) CCB, in reserve, enroute to join the division, crossed the MAIN River at UNNERSDORF (O 3274) as the period closed.

d. The 106th Cavalry Group completed crossing the MAIN River and met moderate enemy resistance as it advanced.

(1) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron at 0930 occupied METTELSDORF (O 3053) without opposition. At 1115 the squadron repulsed an enemy counterattack of about 25 infantry and two tanks in that vicinity. During the remainder of the period the squadron remained in close contact with the enemy as it advanced and took LITZENDORF (O 3550).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron covered the left flank of the group during the morning. At 1300 it passed through WINDISCHLETTEN (O 3360), contacted elements of the 45th Infantry Division in STRASSGLECH

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(O 3458), and sent dismounted patrols into SCHESZLITZ (O 3658) without enemy contact.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired eleven observed missions and four harassing missions during the day and destroyed two tanks and three other vehicles. After dark, one harassing mission was fired on STRULENDORF (O 3243).

f. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery engaged 24 enemy aircraft which made eight raids over the Corps zone during the period and claimed one was probably destroyed.

g. XV Corps Engineers completed an 80 foot class 40 timber trestle bridge at GEMUNDEN (M4063), a 120 foot floating treadway bridge at BREITEN GUSSEBACH (O 2657), and maintained roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

h. Adverse weather conditions prevented air support.

i. Three thousand six hundred and forty-six prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 652, 3d Infantry Division 1138, the 45th Infantry Division 1756, and the 14th Armored Division 100.

14. 14 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps met slight opposition as it advanced an average of 20 kilometers and reconnoitered to the NURNBERG-BAYREUTH Autobahn. Enemy artillery was quiet except in the vicinity of BAIBERG where sparse concentrations of estimated 105mm shells fell early in the period.

Operations Instructions No 176 XV Corps, dated 1700 14 April, issued in compliance with Operations Instructions No 131, Seventh Army, directed in substance that:

The 3d Infantry Division continue its advance southeast in its zone, force a crossing of the REGNITZ River and LUDWIGS CANAL, capture that portion of NURNBERG (O 4200) north of the PEGNITZ River, protect the right flank of the Corps, and maintain contact with XXI Corps;

The 45th Infantry Division continue its advance southeast in its zone, force a crossing of the PEGNITZ River, and capture that portion of NURNBERG south of the PEGNITZ River;

The 14th Armored Division continue its advance to the southeast and cut the NURNBERG-BAYREUTH (O 7657) Autobahn in its zone; advance to its objective, (a line approximately one kilometer southeast of and generally parallel with the autobahn) reconnoiter in its zone to the line: SULZBACH (O 8908) - MARKTREDWITZ (P1165), protect the left flank of the Corps, and maintain contact with Third Army;

The 106th Cavalry Group continue to reconnoiter in the zone of the 45th Infantry Division, exclusive of NURNBERG, protect the left flank and rear of the 45th Infantry Division, and, on Corps order, reconnoiter to the line: NEUMARKT (T7182) - SULZBACH (O 8908). (16)

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a. The 3d Infantry Division on the Corps right continued its advance at 0600 against light, scattered resistance.

(1) The 1st Battalion 30th Infantry on the regiment's right cleared UNTER NEUSES (O 1921), OBERKOST (O 1736), LINBACH (O 2133), HOCHSTADT (O 2127), and GREISDORF (O 2326) during the period. The 3d Battalion on the left cleared STAPPENBACH (O 2134) and advanced to AISCHE (O 2729) and LAUF (O 3030). The 2d Battalion, in reserve in the vicinity of (O 0744), maintained road blocks on the division's right flank.

(2) The 15th Infantry, on the left of the 30th Infantry, met slight resistance during the period. The 1st Battalion advanced to WILLERSDORF (O 3332) and SCHNAIN (O 3135), and the 2d Battalion assembled in BAMBERG (O 2648) in regimental reserve after it completed clearing the remainder of the city in the division zone. The 3d Battalion cleared the wooded area west of the REGNITZ River in the vicinity of (O 3239).

(3) The 7th Infantry remained in reserve and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of FRENDSHOF (O 1445) and SCHONBRUNN (O 1240). Elements of the 3d Battalion patrolled from (O 1448) to (O 1849), and east to the MAIN River.

b. The 45th Infantry Division attacked at 0730 against initially slight resistance. During the afternoon, however, opposition stiffened on the right, and both assault battalions of the right flank regiment launched a coordinated attack as the period closed.

(1) The 179th Infantry attacked against sporadic resistance. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left had reached (O 3150) and (O 3547) by 1030. As the battalions advanced in the afternoon, they met mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire. At 2200 the 1st Battalion had reached (O 3440) and the 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of (O 3642). Both battalions resumed their attack at midnight. The 2d Battalion assembled in the vicinity of GUNDELSHEIM (O 2853).

(2) The 157th Infantry attacked with two battalions abreast against scattered resistance. Leading elements of the 3d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion advanced against small arms fire in the vicinity of (O 4939) and (O 5450) respectively as the period closed. The 1st Battalion, in reserve, was in the vicinity of STARKENSCHWIND (O 3357).

(3) The 3d Battalion 180th Infantry crossed a footbridge to attack the island in the center of BAMBERG and cleared it of snipers by 0810. The remainder of the regiment was assembled in reserve in the vicinity of (O 3040).

c. The 14th Armored Division patrolled against slight enemy opposition to the NURNBERG (O 4200) - BAYREUTH (O 7657) autobahn in its zone.

(1) CCA met occasional small arms fire as it cleared HEILINGENSTADT (O 4646), HEROLDSBERG (O 5744), SACHSENDORF (O 5152), HOCHSTAHL (O 5348), and WEISCHENFELD (O 5944).

(2) CCR patrolled in the division zone. Elements reconnoitered to the NURNBERG-BAYREUTH Autobahn, and cleared THURNAU (O 6164), TANNFELD (O 6259), TROSCHENREUTH (O 8151), and CREUSSEN (O 7945).

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(3) CCB assembled in the vicinity of KÖNIGSFELD (O 4655) after it had cleared the area against slight opposition.

d. The 106th Cavalry Group met occasional small arms resistance as it continued to clear towns on the Corps left flank.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron advanced at 0600 and cleared HERZOGENTREUTH (O 4150), TIETEN POLZ (O 4240) against scattered opposition. At the end of the period elements had reached ESCHLEPP (O 4539), KETTENEGGOLDSENFELD (O 4344), and VOLKMANNTREUTH (O 4743).

(2) Elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron advanced to LOHNDORF (O 3751) where elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron passed through them. Troop "B" 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron moved to LITZENDORF (O 3551), and the remainder of the squadron was in reserve in the vicinity of (O 3649) at the end of the period.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired four observed missions on enemy vehicles in NUISA (O 3450). Units continued to displace forward.

f. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery engaged 25 aircraft over the Corps zone and destroyed four planes.

g. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 76 foot two-way class 40 one-way class 70 timber trestle bridge at (H8002), a 61 foot two-way class 40 one-way class 70 timber trestle bridge at (H8106), and a 120 foot class 40 Bailey bridge at (O 3273).

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 75 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. Sixteen sorties in close support of the 45th Infantry Division bombed and strafed 500 motor and horse drawn transport at (O 4234). Twelve sorties attacked troop concentrations at HEIGENSTADT (O 4746) in close support of the 106th Cavalry Group. Medium bombers attacked a supply dump in the vicinity of (X7982).

i. Two thousand five hundred and twenty-six prisoners were taken in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 57, the 3d Infantry Division 778, the 45th Infantry Division 1525, and the 14th Armored Division 166.

15. 15 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps infantry divisions met sporadic opposition as they crossed the PEGNITZ and REGNITZ Rivers and LUDWIGS CANAL to envelop NURNBERG from the north and southeast. No enemy artillery fire was reported.

Field Message No 19, dated 1220, 15 April; from the CG XV Corps to CG 14th Armored Division in compliance with Operations Instructions No 152 Seventh Army, dated 14 April, directed the 14th Armored Division to establish and maintain contact with elements of Third Army at the road junction in the vicinity of (O 7752). (17)(18).

a. The 3d Infantry Division met varied resistance as it advanced to the southeast and established a bridgehead across the REGNITZ River.

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(1) The 30th Infantry on the division right overcame small arms fire in each village as it advanced and by the end of the period one company had crossed the REGNITZ River and LUDWIGS CANAL. The 1st Battalion on the right met stiff small arms resistance as it cleared GROSS DECHSENDORF (O 3119), KOSBACH (O 3116), and ALT ERLANGEN (O 3416), and at the end of the period was engaged in a fire fight in BUCHENBACH (O 3315). On the left, the 3d Battalion met moderate small arms fire as it cleared HELMHOFEN (O 3025), ROTTENBACH (O 3024), and KLEIN SEEBACH (O 3622). Late in the period one company of the battalion crossed the REGNITZ River at (O 3620) without opposition, took BAIERSDORF (O 3722), crossed the LUDWIGS CANAL there, and continued to POXDORF (O 4023). The remainder of the Battalion, by the end of the period, was prepared to follow. The 2d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (O 3024).

(2) The 15th Infantry met sporadic resistance to its advance. The 2d Battalion on the right cleared HEROLDSBACH (O 3526) and POPPENDORF (O 3326). In the regiment's center, the 1st Battalion took ROTHENSAND (O 3136), KLEIN BUCHFELD (O 3136), and HALLERNDORF (O 3334). The 3d Battalion occupied PAUTZFELD (O 3734), BURK (O 3830), and BUCKENHOFEN (O 3831).

(3) The 7th Infantry, in division reserve in HELMHOFEN (O 3025), was prepared to exploit the REGNITZ River bridgehead in the 30th Infantry zone.

b. The 45th Infantry Division advanced against moderate small arms and automatic weapons fire. Elements crossed the PEGNITZ River.

(1) The 179th Infantry on the right advanced to the PEGNITZ River in its zone. At the close of the period, the 1st Battalion on the right had reached FORTH (O 5216) and elements of the 3d Battalion had reached (O 5418) and (O 5515). As the period ended the 2d Battalion was enroute to pass through the 1st Battalion.

(2) On the division left the 157th Infantry attacked at 0730, seized a bridge intact in the vicinity of SCHNATTACH (O 6012) and continued its attack southeast of the PEGNITZ River. The 1st Battalion in the lead reduced defended roadblocks as it advanced to LAUF (O 5607). Elements of the 2d and 3d Battalions, following the 1st Battalion, were at UNTERSODORF (O 5713) and (O 5906), respectively.

(3) The 180th Infantry moved to reserve assembly areas in the vicinity of EBERMANSTADT (O 4837).

c. The 14th Armored Division advanced through scattered resistance and cut the NURNBERG-BAYREUTH autobahn during the period.

(1) Elements of CCA attacked southeast at 0630 and reached the autobahn in force at 0945, after by-passing a blown bridge at (O 6433). Other elements cleared GROSSWEINSTEIN (O 5936).

(2) CCR reached the autobahn by 1005 after reducing and by-passing several roadblocks. At 1056 a reconnaissance element in the vicinity of REUSSEN (O 7945) was counterattacked by a force estimated to be 15 tanks and a battalion of infantry. In a stiff fire fight and tank battle the reconnaissance unit reinforced with a medium tank company repulsed the enemy and reoccupied the town by 1600.

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(3) CCB moved from the vicinity of KONIGSFELD (O 4635) to reserve positions in the vicinity of KIRCHAHORN (O 6343).

d. The 106th Cavalry Group advanced southeast against sniper and occasional automatic weapons fire.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued its advance to the south and southeast after elements crossed the WEISENT River unopposed in the vicinity of PRETZELD (O 4734). By the end of the period leading elements had taken SEIDMAR (O 4928) after a brief fire fight and had captured eight 75mm howitzers in that vicinity.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron met and by-passed defended roadblocks to take OBER TROBACH (O 6028). Elements then advanced without enemy contact to LEUPOLDSTEIN (O 6328).

e. XV Corps Artillery fired four observed and two unobserved harassing missions, and during the night fired 33 harassing missions on enemy held towns on the east side of the REGNITZ River in the 3d Infantry Division zone. Two time-on-target missions were fired on LANGENSENDELBACH (O 4021).

f. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery reported that six raids totalling 27 aircraft bombed and strafed the Corps area. One plane was destroyed. The 353d AAA Searchlight Battalion lighted the vicinity of BAIEDSDORF (O 3722) to illuminate bridging operations in the 3d Infantry Division zone. An element of the 441st AAA AW Battalion, in a direct fire mission in support of the 3d Infantry Division silenced a machine gun, killed eight Germans, and forced the enemy to abandon a 170mm gun in the vicinity of (O 3417).

g. XV Corps Engineers completed a 180 foot treadway bridge in BALBERG (O 2648), a 50 foot steel stringer bridge at (O 1869), and a 75 foot pile bent bridge at BAD KISSINGEN (N6780).

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 120 sorties in support of XV Corps. Twenty-four sorties, in close support of the 45th Infantry Division, bombed and strafed motor transport and troop concentrations near (O 5425) and in LAUF (O 5608). Twenty-four sorties in close support of the 14th Armored Division bombed and strafed 15 tanks in the vicinity of (O 8445) and were reported to have destroyed three. The remainder of the aircraft attacked marshalling yards at (O 7521), HERSBRUCK (O 6707), and HAPBURG (O 7005). Armed reconnaissance was maintained over the Corps zone.

i. Four thousand two hundred and seventy-nine prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 30, the 3d Infantry Division 915, the 45th Infantry Division 1328, and the 14th Armored Division 2006.

16. 16 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps tightened its grip on NURNBERG with elements of the 45th Infantry Division attacking the city's eastern outskirts and the 3d Infantry Division advancing in its northern suburbs. Resistance was stiff in the city proper and moderate elsewhere. Strong concentrations of enemy anti-aircraft artillery harassed both divisions.

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Field Message No 24, dated 1030 16 April, from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding Generals 45th Infantry Division and the 14th Armored Division, directed in substance that: the 14th Armored Division intensify reconnaissance in the right (southern) portion of the division zone, contact elements of the 45th Infantry Division in the vicinity of SCHNATTACH (O 6012), protect the left flank of the 45th Infantry Division north of the REGNITZ River, and designate one combat command to be committed only on Corps order. (19).

Operations Instructions No 177 XV Corps, dated 2400 16 April directed in substance that:

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions continue their present missions and be prepared to continue their advance to the south after the capture of NURNBERG;

The 14th Armored Division (to be relieved of responsibility for its present zone by elements of Third Army) move without delay to the vicinity of ALTDORF (T6393), protect the left flank of the Corps north of LUDWIGS CANAL, and maintain contact with Third Army;

The 106th Cavalry Group cover the left flank of the 45th Infantry Division south of LUDWIGS CANAL, and reconnoiter in the direction of ALTDORF (T6393) and ROTH (O 4477). (20).

a. The 3d Infantry Division crossed the remainder of its combat elements over the REGNITZ River and LUDWIGS CANAL and attacked to the east and southeast against sporadic opposition.

(1) The 30th Infantry met slight small arms fire as it attacked to the east and southeast to secure its bridgehead. The 2d Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion had reached (O 3617) and (O 3917) by the close of the period. The 1st Battalion blocked to the west and southwest from the vicinity of BUCHENBACH (O 3515).

(2) The 7th Infantry, after crossing the REGNITZ River, attacked on the division right flank. By the end of the period the 3d Battalion on the right had reached ELTERS DORF (O 3411), and the 2d Battalion on the left had reached TENNENLOHE (O 3810). The 1st Battalion was in the vicinity of ERLANGEN (O 3616).

(3) Attacking on the division left the 15th Infantry advanced against slight opposition. As the period closed, the 3d Battalion on the right was in BUCHENBUHL (O 4406), and the 1st Battalion was in HEROLDBURG (O 4709). The 2d Battalion, in reserve, was in the vicinity of NEUNKIRCHEN (O 4518).

b. The 45th Infantry Division attacked at 0730 against initially slight resistance which stiffened as elements advanced into the eastern outskirts of NURNBERG (N4200). Strong concentrations of fire from enemy anti-aircraft weapons directed against ground targets fell in the zone late in the period.

(1) The 179th Infantry on the division right attacked to the south and southwest. The 2d Battalion passed through the 1st Battalion in FORTH (O 5216), and met strong small arms and automatic weapons fire as it reached the outskirts of NURNBERG. By the end of the period elements had reached (O 4600), (O 4850), and (O 4603). The 3d Battalion advanced on the left along the AMBERG (O 9802) - NURNBERG railroad, blocking to the south and southeast.

Initially in reserve, the 1st Battalion by the end of the period was blocking in the vicinity of (O 5003) on the NURNBERG-AMBERG highway.

(2) The 180th Infantry attacked southwest in its zone with the 2d Battalion leading. By the end of the period the 2d Battalion had cleared a large portion of the barracks southeast of NURNBERG, elements of the 1st Battalion were in FISCHBACH (O 5097), and the 3d Battalion held positions astride the autobahn in the vicinity of (O 5402).

(3) Committed late in the period, the 157th Infantry attacked to the south in the left of the division zone. The 3d Battalion in the lead had advanced to (O 5796) and MOOSBACH (O 5594) by the end of the period. Elements of the 2d Battalion were near (O 5094), (O 4994), and (O 4692) as the period closed. The 1st Battalion, in reserve, was in the vicinity of (O 5701).

c. The 14th Armored Division attacked to the south with its right units and maintained its positions in the left of its zone.

(1) CCA on the right attacked against slight opposition. SCHOSSBERG (O 6216), KREUBUHL (O 6216), and BONDORF (O 6215) were cleared during the period, and elements of the 45th Infantry Division were contacted at SCHNAITTACH (O 6013).

(2) CCR maintained its positions in the vicinity of CREUSSEN (O 7945) and harassed enemy on roads east and southeast of the town with artillery fire and fighter-bomber close support missions. Elements reconnoitered to BIRK (O 8448).

(3) CCB patrolled the forest in the vicinity of its assembly area near (O 6044) and maintained its vehicles.

d. The 106th Cavalry Group protected the left flank of the 45th Infantry Division with slight enemy contact.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron cleared LUDERSHEIM (T6094), PENSENHOFEN (T5993), PATTENHOFEN (T5990), UNTRIEDEN (T6595) and ALTDORF (T6293).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered the area: ENGELTHAL (O 6503) - OFFENHAUSEN (O 6600) - KUCHA (O 6799) - ENGENSEBACH (O 6307) and found no enemy. Elements cleared ALTENSITTENBACH (O 6708) with no enemy contact.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired three counterbattery programs on enemy anti-aircraft artillery positions in the NURNBERG area. Six observed and 52 unobserved harassing missions were fired during the period.

f. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery engaged a total of 31 enemy aircraft over the Corps zone during the period, and claimed three damaged and three destroyed.

g. XV Corps Engineers completed a class 40 Bailey bridge at (O 3822), a floating treadway bridge across the REGNITZ River near (O 3722), a floating treadway bridge over LUDWIGS CANAL in the vicinity of BALERSDORF (O 3733) and a class 40 Bailey bridge at BALBERG (O 2648).

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h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 120 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. Thirty-six sorties, in close support of the 45th Infantry Division, bombed, strafed, and attacked with rockets motor transport and personnel south-east of NURNBERG. Twenty-four aircraft, in close support of the 14th Armored Division, bombed and strafed tanks and motor transport east and southeast of CREUSSEN (O 8045). The remainder of the aircraft attacked motor transport in the vicinity of (T3888) and (T4085) and personnel in the vicinity of (T5783) and (T8778).

i. Four thousand eight hundred and fifty-five prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 373; the 3d Infantry Division 1072, the 45th Infantry Division 2651, and the 14th Armored Division 779.

17. 17 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps surrounded NURNBERG on three sides and began to reduce the city. Attackers in NURNBERG's northern, eastern, and southern outskirts fought from house-to-house against stiff resistance. Enemy anti-aircraft artillery employed as field artillery fell on both assaulting divisions. As the period closed the 14th Armored Division was enroute to the vicinity of BERG (T6988) to protect the Corps southern flank.

Field Order 12 Seventh Army, dated 1600, 17 April, assigned effective immediately as the boundary between Third Army and Seventh Army (XV Corps) the line: WURZBURG (N5935) - ANSBACH (T0618) - FREISING (Y9686) - DORFEN (Z2772) - ROSENHEIM (Z2826), to Third Army; unrestricted running rights on the road: ANSBACH (T0681) - EIGOLSTADT (T7125) MUNICH (Y8555), to Seventh Army; and between XV Corps and XXI Corps, the line: NORDLINGEN (T0231) - HARBURG (T1825) - DONAUWORTH (T2285) AUGSBURG (Y3480) all to XV Corps; and directed in substance that:

XV Corps, with the 42d Infantry Division assigned effective 0001 19 April, complete its capture of NURNBERG, advance south on the axis: SCHWABACH (T3886) - WEISENBERG (T3652) - KONHEIL (T2831) - MUNICH; seize crossings over the DANUBE River in its zone, maintain contact with Third Army, and prepare to pass one division to control of Seventh Army. (21).

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued its attack south against initially slight resistance, but at the close of the period opposition stiffened as forward elements reached the northern outskirts of NURNBERG. Fire from enemy anti-aircraft artillery employed as field artillery was strong throughout the period.

(1) The 7th Infantry attacked with two battalions abreast against stiffening resistance. The 3d Battalion on the right cleared GROSS GRUNDLACH (O 3708) and continued its advance to reach the vicinity of (O 3606). During the period the battalion captured 12 88mm guns. The 2d Battalion attacked on the left of the 3d Battalion and cleared REUTLES (O 3709) and reached the vicinity of (O 4006) by the close of the period. The 1st Battalion, in regimental reserve, remained in the vicinity of ERLANGEN (O 3615).

(2) Elements of the 15th Infantry on the division left reached the outskirts of NURNBERG where they met strong opposition. The 3d Battalion on the right cleared enemy strong points as it attacked to the vicinity of (O 4103) and (O 4203). The 1st Battalion on the left had entered NURNBERG by 2000 hours and was meeting strong resistance in the vicinity of (O 4502) as the period closed. The 2d Battalion, initially in reserve, late in the period had advanced to (O 4104).

(3) The 1st Battalion 30th Infantry attacked on the division left late in the period and by 2330 had reached (O 4401). The remainder of the regiment remained in reserve near HEROLDSBERG (O 4709).

b. The 45th Infantry Division met stiff opposition and increasingly strong 88mm fire as it continued its attack in the southeastern outskirts of NURNBERG.

(1) The 179th Infantry continued its strongly-opposed advance into NURNBERG. The 3d Battalion led the attack and by the close of the period had reached the railroad near (T4601). The 2d Battalion moved northwest to the vicinity of (T4497) and (T4478) to protect the regiment's right flank and the 1st Battalion moved to the south flank of the division to block along LUDWIGS CANAL in the vicinity of (T4296), (T4295), and (T4396).

(2) The 180th Infantry continued its attack in NURNBERG initially with one battalion, but later moved another battalion to the right of the attacking elements. The 2d Battalion overcame strong resistance to reach (T4497) and (T4498). Later in the period the 1st Battalion attacked to the right of the 2d Battalion and reached (T4598), (T4698), and (T4699). The 3d Battalion remained in regimental reserve in the vicinity of (T4797).

(3) The 157th Infantry attacked initially southwest until it reached FEUCHT (T5292) where it swung to the northwest and attacked the southern outskirts of NURNBERG. The 3d Battalion cleared FEUCHT (T5292) against stubborn resistance and moved to block on the regiment's left flank in the vicinity of (T4590), (T4990), and (T5091). The 1st Battalion advanced astride the autobahn in the vicinity of (T4692), entered the southwest outskirts of NURNBERG against stubborn resistance, and reached (T4296) and (T4295). The 2d Battalion advanced against scattered opposition to protect the division's left flank and reached the vicinity of (T4592), (T4492), and (T4393). As the period ended the 3d Battalion had been relieved and was enroute to join the 1st Battalion.

c. The 14th Armored Division enroute to its new assembly area in the vicinity of BERG (T6988) met sporadic opposition.

(1) CCA began its move south at 0800 and was attacked at 0830 in BETZENSTEIN (O 6526) by an undetermined number of enemy infantry supported by self-propelled guns. The attack was driven off by 1030 and the combat command resumed movement. Leading elements were engaged in a fire fight in HAUSHEIM (T6687) as the period ended.

(2) CCB began its move south at 0800 and was ordered at 1430 to clear the wooded area in the vicinity of (O 7227). By 2100 the combat command had cleared the area and at the close of the period had reached the autobahn in the vicinity of (O 6925).

(3) CCR maintained its positions along the line: CREUSSEN (O 7945) -

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BUCHAU (O 7438) until relieved by elements of the 71st Infantry Division (Third Army). At the end of the period the combat command was prepared to move to its new assembly area in the vicinity of HAGENHAUSEN (T6693).

d. The 106th Cavalry Group protected the southern flank of the Corps during the period without enemy opposition.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered WEINHOF (T6093), FRACHENFELD (T6292), OCHTENBRUCK (T5690), and ALTDORF (T6293). The squadron reverted to group reserve at 1200 in the vicinity of FEUCHT (T5292).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron destroyed a convoy of horse drawn vehicles near REINITZHEIMBACH (T4583) and occupied the town without opposition. Elements relieved bridge guards in the vicinity of OTTENSOS (T6007) and were in turn relieved by elements of the 14th Armored Division.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired five observed and 27 unobserved counterbattery missions during the day on anti-aircraft artillery positions in the vicinity of NURNBERG, and fired 35 unobserved harassing missions on other enemy targets in the NURNBERG area. After 2130 prepared fires were laid on four points in NURNBERG.

f. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery reported that 15 raids totalling 27 aircraft bombed and strafed the Corps zone. Six planes were destroyed and two were damaged.

g. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 40 foot timber trestle bridge near (N7269), a 15 foot timber trestle bridge near (O 1940), and an 80 foot Bailey bridge near (O 3929).

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 156 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. Twelve aircraft in close support of the 3d Infantry Division bombed and strafed gun positions and troop concentrations in the vicinity of HOGLES-DORF (O 4601). Ninety-six sorties in close support of the 14th Armored Division bombed, strafed, and attacked with rockets gun positions in the NURNBERG area. Motor traffic in the vicinity of THANNHEIM (U0892) was bombed and strafed by 12 sorties in close support of the 14th Armored Division, and motor transport and troop concentrations in ALLERSBERG (T5478) were attacked by 12 aircraft in support of the 106th Cavalry Group. The remainder of the aircraft, on long range missions, attacked a railroad train near (T8074) and strafed an airfield near (T0834).

i. Eight thousand two hundred and thirty-nine prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 563, the 3d Infantry Division 1387, the 45th Infantry Division 4869, and the 14th Armored Division 1420.

18. 18 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps cleared approximately two-thirds of NURNBERG in house-to-house battles against determined defenders. Enemy anti-aircraft artillery batteries in the city fired strong concentrations on front line units and on the suburban towns surrounding NURNBERG.

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Operations Instructions No 178 XV Corps, dated 2130, 18 April, in compliance with Top Secret Field Order No 12, Seventh Army, dated 1600 17 April, directed in substance that:

The 3d and 45th Infantry Division continue their present missions and be prepared, after NURNBERG was cleared, to move to the vicinity of BUTTELBRON (T3137);

The 42d Infantry Division continue its attack on NURNBERG, maintain contact with the 3d Infantry Division, establish contact with the 45th Infantry Division, protect the right flank of the Corps, and prepare to move, by-passing all resistance possible, to an assembly area north of the DANUBE River in the vicinity of (T285250);

The 14th Armored Division reconnoiter 19 April to the vicinity of (T440256), seize crossings of the DANUBE River in its zone, and prepare to move to the vicinity of (T440256);

The 106th Cavalry Group reconnoiter 19 April to the vicinity of (T287252) and seize all crossings of the DANUBE River in its zone. (22).

a. The 3d Infantry Division at 0730 continued its house-to-house fight in NURNBERG against strong resistance.

(1) The 7th Infantry on the right advanced south in the city. The 3d Battalion on the right destroyed eight 88mm anti-aircraft guns, occupied the WEST FRIEDERHOF PARK, and at the end of the period had reached the vicinity of (O 390012). The 2d Battalion in the center overcame dug-in enemy in the vicinity of (O 405022), and as the period closed, fought from house-to-house in the apartment district in the vicinity of (O 412013). The 1st Battalion, on the left, advanced slowly into the built up area in the vicinity of (O 408012).

(2) The 1st Battalion 15th Infantry led the regiment's attack and reached the vicinity of (O 425009) and (O 428012) after it had cleared the park near (O 430015). On the left the 2d Battalion late in the period cleared the area in the vicinity of (O 445028) and advanced to (O 430012). The 3d Battalion cleared KLEIN REUTH (O 4203), advanced into NURNBERG, and reached (O 418013) and (O 421014).

(3) The 1st Battalion 30th Infantry attacked in the northeast portion of the city and advanced to the vicinity of (O 440011). The 2d Battalion, in regimental reserve, moved to the vicinity of (O 464035). In division reserve, the 3d Battalion moved to HEROLDSBERG (O 4709).

b. The 45th Infantry Division continued its attack in NURNBERG at 0730 against stiff opposition and by the end of the period had cleared approximately nine square kilometers of the city.

(1) The 179th Infantry met automatic weapons, sniper, and artillery fire as it advanced. The 2d Battalion attacked from house-to-house on the regiment's right flank, and had reached the vicinity of (T493905), (T476897), and (T418991) by the close of the period. The 3d Battalion moved from the north flank of the regiment to positions in the vicinity of (T413952) where it blocked to the south and relieved elements of the 157th Infantry at 2400. The 1st Battalion continued to block to the south from positions in the vicinity of (T493905) and (T458900).

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(2) The 180th Infantry overcame resolute opposition as it advanced west in NURNBERG. By the end of the period the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left had reached the vicinity of (T447982) and (T442995) respectively. The 3d Battalion assembled in the vicinity of (T961473).

(3) The 157th Infantry advanced northwest in NURNBERG against determined small arms and automatic weapons fire. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left had reached the vicinity of (T437982) and (T415994) by the close of the period. The 3d Battalion, which had been relieved by elements of the 179th Infantry assembled near (T412964).

c. The 14th Armored Division advanced against sporadic small arms and slight self-propelled artillery fire to clear its assembly area of enemy. CCA had closed in the vicinity of BERG (T6987), CCB had closed near RASCH (T6491), and CCR was enroute to ROHRENSTADT (T6993) by the end of the period.

d. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to protect the left flank of the 45th Infantry Division south of LUDWIGS CANAL, and maintained contact with the 45th Infantry Division and the 14th Armored Division.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in reserve moved from OCHENBRUCK (T5690) to FEUCH (T5292).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron secured and outposted SCHWAND (T4683), REDNITZHEIMBACH (T4383), and RAUBERSNEID (T4788), and reconnoitered MECHENLOKE (T4780), SPERBERSLOHE (T9186), and WENDELSTEIN (T4889) without gaining contact with the enemy. A patrol encountered an enemy convoy moving southwest from SCHWABACH (T3885) and destroyed two trucks.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired a preparation on NURNBERG at the maximum rate of fire from 0645 to 0715 before the infantry resumed its attack on the city. Two counter battery missions, seven observed missions, and 77 unobserved missions were fired on the city during the period. Harassing missions were fired on the SCHWABACH (T3886) - REDNITZHEIMBACH (T4383) road early in the period.

f. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery engaged 26 enemy aircraft over the Corps zone during the period and destroyed two. Automatic weapons battalions were used against ground targets to support the 3d Infantry Division's attack.

g. XV Corps Engineers removed the 120 foot Bailey bridge at UNTERSODERF (O 3273) and completed a 112 foot steel string crib bent bridge at BREITENGUSSBACH (O 2558), a 53 foot timber trestle bridge near (O 397286), and a 45 foot timber trestle bridge at (O 378224).

h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 120 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. Twenty-four aircraft bombed and strafed the center of NURNBERG in close support of the 45th Infantry Division. Twelve sorties in close support of the 14th Armored Division bombed and strafed motor transport in the vicinity of (T735798), and 12 sorties in support of the 106th Cavalry Group attacked five tanks near (T625731). The remainder of the missions were long range attacks on airfields in the Corps zone.

i. Two thousand nine hundred and eighty-six prisoners were captured during

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the period: Corps troops captured 215, the 3d Infantry Division 811, the 45th Infantry Division 1260, and the 14th Armored Division 700.

19. 19 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps troops overcame fanatical small arms, automatic weapons, rifle grenade, and panzerfaust fire to clear the major portions of NURNBERG and enter the medieval walled town in the heart of the city. The 42d Infantry Division, attached to XV Corps at 0001, took FURTH (O 3602) completing the ring of XV Corps troops encircling NURNBERG. Artillery fire slackened as attacking elements overran anti-aircraft artillery emplacements.

Field Message No 19, dated 0930, 19 April, from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding Generals of the 14th Armored Division and the 45th Infantry Division and to the Commanding Officer, 106th Cavalry Group, directed in substance that the 14th Armored Division relieve elements of the 106th Cavalry Group without delay in the area: KORNEURG (T4489) - RED NITZHEIMBACH (T4383) - SCHWAND (T4683), protect the 45th Infantry Division's rear and left flank, and maintain contact with the enemy force in the vicinity of SCHWABACH. (23).

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued its stiff house-to-house fight and entered the walled city in the heart of NURNBERG.

(1) Attacking on the right, the 7th Infantry met small arms, automatic weapons, rifle grenade, and bazooka fire. The 2d Battalion reorganized early in the period and led the regiment's dawn attack. Late in the period the battalion repulsed with small arms, automatic weapons, tank, and tank destroyer fire, a counterattack delivered by a force estimated to be a platoon of infantry in the vicinity of (O 452001) and continued its attack south. The 1st Battalion followed the advanced elements and cleared by-passed resistance. The 3d Battalion, in reserve in the vicinity of (O 389010), protected the regiment's right flank and maintained contact with the 42d Infantry Division.

(2) The 15th Infantry attacked with two battalions abreast in the center of the division zone, was often forced to battle from house-to-house, and occasionally had to clear a house from room-to-room against fanatical resistance. Tanks and tank destroyers attacking with the infantry received bazooka and panzerfaust fire from civilians as well as from uniformed enemy. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion cleared the enemy as far as the walls of the inner city. At the end of the period the 1st Battalion had entered the walled town through the gate seized by the 30th Infantry; and the 3d Battalion was enroute to enter it. The 2d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (O 440035).

(3) The 1st Battalion 30th Infantry attacked south against intense small arms, automatic weapons, rifle grenade, bazooka, and panzerfaust fire and forced NORDER TOR (O 410001), the north gate to the walled city. Within the walls the battalion continued its attack south. At 1600 the battalion contacted elements of the 45th Infantry Division near (O 431002). The 2d Battalion followed through the breach and continued its attack on the right of the 1st Battalion. The 3d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of HEROLDSBERG (O 4709).

b. The 45th Infantry Division resumed its attack in NURNBERG at 0700

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against stiff resistance from small arms, machine gun, sniper, and mortar fire. Elements entered the walled city in NURNBERG's center.

(1) The 180th Infantry on the right attacked with all three battalions abreast. The 3d Battalion on the right cleared the island in the REGNITZ River in the vicinity of (O 431008) against strong small arms and automatic weapons fire. The battalion was delayed by strong small arms, bazooka, and automatic weapons fire from the east wall of the old city, but by the end of the period had entered the fortification and was making slow progress against strong resistance. The 1st Battalion in the center attacked through moderate small arms resistance to the vicinity of (T435990) where, at 1130, the 2d and 3d Battalions took over its mission. The 1st Battalion remained in that vicinity to clear by-passed enemy. The 2d Battalion on the left attacked against intense small arms fire and cleared dug-in enemy from the railroad area in the vicinity of (T421992) and at the end of the period was advancing slowly toward (T410998).

(2) The 157th Infantry in the center of the division met varied resistance as it continued its attack at 0700. Attacking on the right, the 3d Battalion met only sporadic sniper and automatic fire and advanced rapidly to the vicinity of (T400991), (T423998), and (T415983). In the center, however, the 1st Battalion met stiff small arms resistance as it cleared the warehouse district in the vicinity of (T405991) and advanced to the southern wall of the inner city. An element of the battalion moved to (T413992) to block the highway to FURTH (O 3641), and the remainder, at the close of the period, were under machine gun fire from enemy defending the walls of the inner city near (T410998).

(3) The 179th Infantry blocked to the south and southeast and elements cleared by-passed resistance in the regimental zone. The 2d Battalion cleared enemy from the southwest portion of NURNBERG against sporadic resistance from snipers and slight automatic weapons fire. At the close of the period it was enroute to a reserve position near (T523925). The 1st Battalion continued to block along the division left flank in the vicinity of (T458900). The 3d Battalion closed at 0200 in the vicinity of (T384952) and blocked to the west and southwest.

c. The 42d Infantry Division, attached to XV Corps at 0001, 19 April, attacked and took FURTH (O 4601) against slight resistance.

(1) The 232d Infantry on the right crossed the REGNITZ River in the vicinity of (T361972) with the 2d and 3d Battalion abreast. Leading elements advanced against slight sniper fire to the vicinity of (T362971) where they protected the division's right flank. The 1st Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (T302987).

(2) The 242d Infantry, on the right of the right of the division's attack on FURTH, crossed the REGNITZ River with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast at 0330 in the vicinity of (O 352001) and advanced rapidly through the city to the vicinity of (T361002). The 2d Battalion then pushed to the outskirts of NURNBERG. The 1st Battalion followed the 3d Battalion.

(3) On the left, the 1st Battalion 222d Infantry continued its attack on FURTH against slight opposition and reached the vicinity of (O 352024).

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by the close of the period. The 2d and 3d Battalions remained at (O 342065) and (O 334045), respectively.

d. The 14th Armored Division continued to protect the Corps left flank against stiff enemy opposition.

(1) Reconnaissance elements of CCA entered NEUMARKT (T7182) at 0630 without gaining enemy contact, but the main body of the combat command as it approached drew strong antitank, mortar, and small arms fire from the north edge of the town and the high ground to the east. By 1525 the 48th Tank Battalion and the 68th Armored Infantry Battalion had entered the town against stiff opposition, and at the end of the period both were advancing slowly against anti-tank, small arms, and automatic weapons fire.

(2) At 0600 CCB was attacked in the vicinity of (T590905) by an estimated two companies of infantry supported by artillery and mortar fire and was forced to withdraw under strong pressure before halting the assault at 0830 with tank, tank destroyer, and small arms fire. CCB counterattacked at 1340 and cleared PATTENHOFFEN (T5990) and the wooded area in the vicinity of (T623915). CCB had reached positions in the vicinity of (T594953) and (T524895) by the end of the period and was continuing its attack to regain its former positions.

(3) Elements of CCR relieved elements of the 106th Cavalry Group in the area: KORNBERG (T4489) - REDNITZHEILBACH (T4383) - SCHWAND (T4683). The remainder of CCB maintained positions in the vicinity of (T602904). The 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was prepared to reconnoiter south in the division zone.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group protected the left flank and rear of the 45th Infantry Division, established contact with the 42d Infantry Division, and maintained contact with the 14th Armored Division. Elements cleared towns defended by moderate small arms and self-propelled artillery fire.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron became engaged in a series of fire fights. Elements took SPERRERSLOHE (T5186), BUCHENBACH (T4179), and UNTER GASSCHLIEFFE (T4379). Troop "A" attacked ROTH (T4477) late in the period but withdrew under strong enemy small arms and self-propelled artillery fire to UNTER GASSCHLIEFFE to direct air missions on the town.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was relieved by elements of the 14th Armored Division in the area: KORNBERG-REDNITZHEILBACH-SCHWAND, and at the end of the period was assembled in the vicinity of (T432875) and (T495894).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired six observed registration missions and 109 unobserved preparation, harassing, and neutralization missions on NURNBERG during the period.

g. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery engaged five raids totalling nine aircraft over the Corps zone and destroyed three aircraft and damaged one.

h. XV Corps Engineers completed a 114 foot crib bent bridge and a 160 foot pile bent bridge at BAMBERG (O 2649) to replace the treadway bridge there.

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i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 120 sorties in close support of XV Corps during the period. Twelve sorties in close support of the 42d Infantry Division bombed and strafed gun positions near SCHWABACH (T3886). In close support of the 106th Cavalry Group 12 aircraft bombed and strafed personnel in ROTH (T4477). Seventy-two sorties in close support of the 14th Armored Division bombed and strafed OCHENBRUCK (T5690). Other flights attacked targets of opportunity on the Corps front.

j. Five thousand four hundred and ninety-seven prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period; Corps troops captured 120, the 3d Infantry Division 828, the 45th Infantry Division 991, the 42d Infantry Division 3055, and the 14th Armored Division 503.

20. 20 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps cleared NURNBERG by 2250 after enemy resistance had decreased throughout the period. The 14th Armored Division attacked south to seize crossings of the DANUBE River and gained up to seven kilometers against stiff opposition. Enemy artillery was quiet.

Operations Instructions No 180 XV Corps, dated 1300, 20 April, directed in substance that:

The 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions continue their present missions; the 45th Infantry Division prepare to move on Corps Order in the zone of the 106th Cavalry Group (assigned in Operations Instructions No 178 XV Corps) to the vicinity of BOTTLEBRONN (T3137);

The 42d Infantry Division, less minimum detachments necessary to clear enemy from its zone in the vicinity of NURNBERG, advance without delay in the zone assigned it in Operations Instructions No 178 XV Corps, seize and hold crossings of the DANUBE River in its zone, prepare to advance to the south, and protect the right flank of the Corps;

The 14th Armored Division, less minimum detachments to relieve the 106th Cavalry Group east of SCHWABACH (T3885), advance without delay in the zone assigned it in Operations Instructions No 178 XV Corps, seize and hold crossings of the DANUBE River in its zone, prepare to advance south on Corps order, and protect the left flank of the Corps. (24).

a. The 3d Infantry Division met stiff resistance in NURNBERG until it cleared its zone at 1400.

(1) The 7th Infantry on the right attacked with its 1st and 2d Battalions abreast against stiff small arms and rifle grenade fire. Elements of both battalions penetrated the walls of the inner city by 1100 and attacked south to clear their zones against decreasing resistance by 1200. The 3d Battalion protected the right flank of the regiment from positions in the vicinity of (O 402013).

(2) The 15th Infantry, attacking with its 1st and 3d Battalions within the walls of the medieval town, met sporadic resistance. The enemy began to capitulate early in the period and resistance ceased at approximately 1200. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve near (O 442039).

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(3) The 30th Infantry attacked with two battalions abreast against initially stiff resistance but opposition decreased during the day and ceased by 1330. The 2d Battalion was attacked by an estimated company of infantry at 0350 but drove off the attackers with small arms, automatic weapons, and self-propelled fire. By 1115 the battalion reached ADOLPH HITLER PLATZ, and had completely cleared its zone against sniper fire by 1330. The 1st Battalion took the island in the vicinity of (O 4200) against small arms and automatic weapons fire, and cleared its zone by 1400. The 3d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of HEROLDBERG (O 4708).

b. The 45th Infantry Division, overcoming stiff small arms, automatic weapons, and sniper fire, cleared its zone in NURNBERG by 2250.

(1) The 180th Infantry with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left attacked the walled city in NURNBERG against severe resistance. The 1st Battalion was committed between the other two battalions and throughout the day the three battalions of the regiment abreast fought from house-to-house against sniper, small arms, machine gun, mortar, and bazooka fire. By 1600 all resistance was ended except for 200 of the most determined defenders who had taken refuge in an underground passage near (T414989). These were eliminated by 2250.

(2) The 157th Infantry met sporadic resistance as it cleared its zone. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion continued their attack at 0700 against initially stiff opposition from automatic weapons and small arms. The 3d Battalion followed the 2d Battalion, mopped up in the regimental zone, and protected the regiment's left flank. By 1500 all resistance had ceased in the 2d Battalion zone, and the 1st Battalion was near the park at (O 410001). The 1st Battalion cleared its zone by 1600.

(3) The 179th Infantry continued to maintain its positions of the previous period and to protect the division left flank. The 1st Battalion was near (T385986), the 3d Battalion near (T521928), and the 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (T385955).

c. The 42d Infantry Division cleared all resistance from its zone in the vicinity of FURTH (O 3602) and assembled in preparation for an attack to the south.

(1) The 242d Infantry, less the 2d Battalion assembled in the vicinity of CADOLZBURG (O 3600) and ALMERNDORF (T2696). The 2d Battalion continued to rout the enemy from the vicinity of (T360045) in FURTH.

(2) The 232d Infantry moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of ZIRNDORF (T3398) and OBERASBACH (T3496).

(3) The 222d Infantry, less the 1st Battalion on "T" Force duty in FURTH, assembled in the vicinity of (O 310005).

d. The 14th Armored Division, less CCB and elements of CCR, attacked south in its zone against varied resistance.

(1) CCR, less small detachments protecting the rear of the 45th Inf Division in the area: KORNBERG (T4489) - REDNITZHEIMBACH (T4383) - SCHWAND (T4683), attacked south against sporadic small arms fire until it reached

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CALTENFELDEN (T5379) where it was heavily engaged at the close of the period. Leading elements advanced against small arms and automatic weapons fire of approximately two companies supported by two tanks and reached the vicinity of (T535789) and (T510828).

(2) At 0700 CCB attacked against stiff opposition from enemy small arms, automatic weapons, antitank, and self-propelled artillery fire to regain its former positions along the NURNBERG-FEUCHT (T5291) - NEUMARKT (T7081) highway. The 47th Tank Battalion secured PANZENHOFEN (T5892) and ALTENTHANN (T5891) and by the close of the period had advanced to the vicinity of (T594915). The 19th Armored Infantry Battalion had reached the vicinity of (T624903).

(3) CCA continued to meet strong resistance in NEUMARKT and at 0530 withdrew 2000 yards to direct an air mission on the town. Ordered to by-pass NEUMARKT and continue south, CCA attacked in its zone at 1420 against initially slight resistance. At 1650 leading elements drew tank fire from the vicinity of (T628855), and the enemy resisted CCA's advance vigorously during the remainder of the period. An enemy counterattack by an infantry company supported by two tanks in the same vicinity at 1800 was driven off by automatic weapons, tank, and tank destroyer fire. At the close of the period leading elements were engaged in a fire fight near (T634850).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group took ROTH (T4447) and advanced south during the period.

(1) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron contained the enemy in ROTH while other elements crossed the REGNITZ River south of the town and advanced south against sporadic small arms fire to cut roads in the vicinity of MAUCK (T4268).

(2) Troop "A" 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron cleared ROTH from the north and outposted the town. Other elements outposted LEERSTETTEN (T4686) SCHWAND (T4683), PFAFFENHOFEN (T4379), and MECHENVOLES (T4780).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired four observed missions on the inner city of NURNBERG during the early portion of the period. Units displaced to support the Corps proposed advance south.

g. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery engaged three raids totalling four enemy aircraft and destroyed one plane. Six searchlights illuminated NURNBERG in support of the 3d Infantry Division.

h. XV Corps Engineers removed the 30 foot Bailey Bridge across LUDWIGS CANAL in BAIERERSDORF (O 3823) and maintained roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

i. XII Tactical Air Force supported XV Corps with 84 sorties. In close support of the 14th Armored Division, 60 aircraft bombed and strafed NEUMARKT (T7081) and troop concentrations near OCHENBRUCK (T5590). The remainder of the sorties were directed against long range targets.

j. Five thousand eight hundred and five prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 256, the 3d Infantry

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Division 1219, the 45th Infantry Division 2637, the 42d Infantry Division 1353, and the 14th Armored Division 340.

S U M M A R Y

On 11 and 12 April XV Corps crossed the MAIN River in five places as the MAIN wound through the Corps zone, then crossed the REGNITZ and PEGNITZ Rivers and LUDWIGS CANAL, and took NURNBERG, the Nazi shrine city.

Representative units of XV Corps organizations which engaged in the assault of NURNBERG paraded in Adolph Hitler Platz on 21 April, Hitler's 56th birthday, the day after the capture of the city.

Composite infantry battalions, engineer companies, artillery battalions, a tank destroyer section and a tank company passed in review before Lieutenant General Alexander M Patch, Seventh Army commander, and Lieutenant General (then Major General) Wade H Haislip, XV Corps commander, as fighter-bomber aircraft circled the square to furnish air cover.

Following an inspection of the troops, General Haislip complimented them on their determined thrust through the SIEGFRIED LINE, their epic assault across the RHINE River, and their rapid attack deep into Germany to capture the shrine city of Nazism, an advance of approximately 260 miles between 15 March and 20 April. "I have never seen better divisions than the 3d and 45th", General Haislip said, "and I don't believe there are any finer divisions than these two. Supporting them were veteran XV Corps units of cavalry, artillery, engineers, tank destroyers, and antiaircraft artillery, forming a magnificent fighting team."

The National Colors were then raised over NURNBERG.

Because of the rapid movement of the Corps supply was difficult. Army dumps lagged behind the advance and made it difficult for Corps units to maintain their momentum when supply trucks were required to make long turn arounds.

XV Corps assisted the supply of the divisions from 14-18 April, by employing two DUKW companies under Corps control to deliver gasoline and rations directly to division rear installations, making the 180 mile turn around to BAD KISSINGEN, where the Seventh Army dump was located.

Approximately two DUKW companies were used until the Seventh Army supply point moved closer to the advancing Corps units and the transportation of supplies could again be turned over to the divisions.

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ATTACK TO THE SOUTH, ENTRANCE INTO REDOUBT AREA,
CROSSING OF THE DANUBE, AND THE FALL OF MUNICH.

21-25 April - The Attack to the South

26 April - Crossing of the DANUBE

27-29 April - Continuation of Attack

30 April - The Capture of Munich

R E S T R I C T E D

INTRODUCTION

In compliance with Field Order 12, Seventh Army, dated 17 April, XV Corps began to attack to the south on the axis: SCHWABACH-WEISENBERG-MONHEIM-MUNICH, directly into the area described by the Germans as the National Redoubt.

Enemy resistance of the same type as encountered earlier in the month was expected. G-2 reports indicated no strong enemy line in the Corps zone, but it was believed that large towns would be strongly defended.

The enemy order of battle presented a confused picture. Anti-aircraft artillery battalions, engineer battalions, field artillery units, battle groups, and signal corps personnel all had been identified fighting as infantry. In addition, as a psychological measure, the Germans had formed two name divisions, Division DANAU and Division VON HOBE. The naming of divisions after geographical locations and personalities was intended to contribute, through increased morale, to the fighting ability of the unit.

On 21 April, XV Corps consisted of the 42d Infantry Division, the 45th Infantry Division, the 14th Armored Division, the 106th Cavalry Group, and attached Corps troops.

21. 21 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps commemorated its capture of NURNBERG with a review in ADOLPH HITLER PLATZ the day after Hitler's 56th birthday. The 14th Armored Division and the 42d Infantry Division continued their advance south against stiffening opposition and gained an average of 15 kilometers. Enemy artillery fire increased along the Corps front; the largest concentrations fell in the 14th Armored Division zone where ALTENFELD (T5378) received 200-300 rounds of light caliber shells per hour during the afternoon.

Field Message No 8, from the Commanding General XV Corps, to the Commanding General 3d Infantry Division, dated 0715, 21 April, directed in substance that the 3d Infantry Division with attachments be relieved from attachment to XV Corps and revert to control of Seventh Army. (25) (26)

Field Message No 39, from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding General 45th Infantry Division, dated 1147, 21 April, directed in substance that the 45th Infantry Division move early 22 April to the area indicated on Operations Instructions No 178 XV Corps. (27).

a. The 42d Infantry Division attacked south in its zone at 0645 against initially weak resistance that stiffened later in the day.

(1) The 242d Infantry on the right attacked south with the 1st Battalion riding on tanks and tank destroyers. The 2d and 3d Battalions followed. After an advance of 16 kilometers leading elements met strong small arms, machine gun, and antitank fire in the vicinity of (T236762), and as the period closed they were continuing the attack in that vicinity.

(2) The 232d Infantry on the left attacked with the 1st Battalion, motorized, in the lead, followed by the 2d and 3d Battalions in that order. The attack met only sporadic resistance until it advanced to the vicinity of (T295738) where the 1st Battalion received strong small arms and automatic

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weapons fire. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion was engaged in a fight in that vicinity and the 3d Battalion was enroute to reinforce it.

(3) The 1st Battalion 222d Infantry, relieved of "T" Force duty in FURTH (O 3501), rejoined the regiment in its division reserve positions near (T243835).

b. The 45th Infantry Division moved to an assembly area and closed by the end of the period. The regiments assembled in the following areas: 157th Infantry near (T423925), 179th Infantry near ROTHENBACH (T4990), and the 180th Infantry near FISCHBACH (T5097).

c. The 3d Infantry Division passed to Seventh Army control at 0200.

d. The 14th Armored Division advanced to the south against moderate resistance with CCR and CCA abreast, while CCB attacked a by-passed enemy group in the area southeast of FEUCHT (T5292).

(1) CCR on the right attacked south against sporadic opposition at 0600 and cleared APPELEF (T5377). The 25th Tank Battalion met strong automatic weapons, antitank, and artillery fire in ALLERSBERG (T5578), and CCR was attacking the town as the period closed.

(2) CCA took HENG (T6382) and KOSTELBECH (T6383) early in the period without opposition and cleared KENLATH (T6184) by 1230. Elements met strong antitank and automatic weapons fire as they cleared POSTBAUER (T6285) at 1600. Elements of the 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered to RAUELSBACH (T6280) and BERNGAU (T6679) against sporadic small arms and automatic weapons fire.

(3) In the wooded area southeast of FEUCHT CCB attacked south against a by-passed pocket of resistance at 0630 and cleared OCHENBRUCK (T5590) and OBERFERRIEDEN (T6187) by 0830. The 47th Tank Battalion cleared BURGHANN, and the 19th Armored Infantry Battalion cleared SCHAFLIOF (T6089).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group attacked south against increasingly stiff opposition.

(1) At 0540 the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron repulsed with tank and automatic weapons fire a counterattack of company strength in the vicinity of MAUK (T4268). Troop "A" attacked ROTTENBACH (T4066), but it was repulsed by intense enemy automatic weapons and antitank fire. Troop "C" later took ROTTENBACH against stiff opposition and outposted it at the end of the period. Other elements took WALESAU (T4571) and HUFEN (T4865).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron outposted ROTH (T4477), BUCHENBACH (T4179), and KLEIN (T4589).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired seven counterbattery missions and 50 harassing missions during the period. In the 14th Armored Division sector XV Corps Artillery harassed ten enemy batteries and ten enemy occupied towns during the night.

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g. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery engaged two enemy aircraft over the Corps zone during the period.

h. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

i. XII Tactical Air Force flew 99 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. Twenty-four sorties in close support of the 106th Cavalry Group bombed and strafed WIZENBURG (T3552) and motor movement in the vicinity of (T415675). ROTHENBACH (T4067) was strafed. Twelve sorties in close support of the 14th Armored Division bombed and strafed trucks and trains near (T623800). Sixteen aircraft flew armed reconnaissance missions over the Corps ceremony in NURNBERG. The remainder of the aircraft were on long range missions.

j. One thousand eleven prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 204, the 42d Infantry Division 82, the 3d Infantry Division 203, the 45th Infantry Division 366, and the 14th Armored Division 156.

22. 22 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps gained up to 15 kilometers against sporadic resistance in its attack south toward the DANUBE River. Enemy artillery continued at an accelerated pace along the front and was strongest in the 14th Armored Division zone. Most of the activity consisted of light caliber harassing fire on roads and front line towns.

Operations Instructions No 182 XV Corps, dated 1800, 22 April, directed in substance that:

The 45th and 42d Infantry Divisions close prior to daylight 23 April south of the line: ROTH (T4477) - WINSBACH (T2476) to permit eastward movement of elements of Third Army north of that line;

The 14th Armored Division move all elements west of the boundary between CCA and CCB the night of 22-23 April, continue its advance south in its new zone, and close all elements south of the line: ALIERSBERG (T5578) - ROTH (T4477) before dark 23 April to permit eastward movement of elements of Third Army;

The 106th Cavalry Group continue its present mission. (28).

a. The 42d Infantry Division continued its attack south against sporadic opposition, advanced approximately 15 kilometers, and captured two bridges intact across the ALTMUHL River.

(1) The 242d Infantry on the right attacked at 0600 with the 1st Battalion in the lead and captured the high ground in the area: (T2070) - (T2370). The 2d Battalion advanced on the right of the 1st Battalion later in the period and captured a bridge over the ALTMUHL River at GUNZENHAUSEN (T2061). All three battalions were across the river as the period closed.

(2) The 232d Infantry continued its attack with the 1st and 3d Battalions abreast and by 0500 had captured the high ground in the vicinity of

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THEILENBERG (T2871) against slight opposition. The regiment continued its attack and advanced 13 kilometers. The 1st Battalion captured and crossed a bridge over the ALTMUHL River at UNTER-ASBACH (T2358). At the end of the period the 2d and 3d Battalions were prepared to cross.

(3) The 222d Infantry in division reserve moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of WINSBACH (T2476) and protected the division left flank with motor patrols.

b. The 45th Infantry Division attacked in its new zone at 0800 and made good progress against sporadic resistance.

(1) The 3d Battalion 157th Infantry on the right met only scattered enemy small arms fire but was delayed by road craters and blown bridges. At the end of the period forward elements had reached the vicinity of (T326621), (T364632), and (T335630). The 1st and 2d Battalions assembled in the vicinity of (T331650) and (T370660) respectively.

(2) The 179th Infantry on the left attacked at 0800 with two battalions abreast against slight small arms and automatic weapons fire. The 1st Battalion on the right had advanced to (T395620) and FLEINFELD (T3761) by the close of the period, and the 2d Battalion had reached WALTING (T4261). The 3d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of (T430700).

(3) The 180th Infantry, in division reserve, moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of STEINBACH (T4473).

c. The 14th Armored Division met stiff small arms fire as it attacked south, while considerable artillery fire fell on the left flank of forward elements.

(1) CCR attacked ALLERSBERG (T5478) and met stiff enemy small arms, antitank, automatic weapons, and mortar fire. At the end of the period the enemy still held ALLERSBERG. Other elements of CCR by-passed the resistance at ALLERSBERG and attacked south at 0800 against slight resistance. By the end of the period forward elements had reached PYRAS (T5366) and were clearing a mine field there. An enemy attack of company strength on a field artillery battalion in HARRLACH (T5182) was repulsed at 2300 by small arms and artillery fire.

(2) CCA attacked south on the axis: HENG (T6383) - PAUELSBACH (T6280) at 0800 and met stiff resistance. At 1800 CCA began to move to the zone of CCR in compliance with Operations Instructions No 182 XV Corps. Forward elements received moderate light caliber artillery fire throughout their attack. The 48th Tank Battalion encountered antitank fire from the woods in the vicinity of (T619825), and the 68th Armored Infantry Battalion met intense small arms fire in TYRDISBERG (T6581) and RITTERSHOF (T6682) before CCA was ordered to move to the zone of CCR.

(3) CCB attacked south against enemy southeast of REUCHT (T5292) at 1000 and made slow progress against stiff opposition. By the end of the period forward elements had reached RYRBAUM (T5883) and their attack was continuing against stiff small arms, automatic weapons, and artillery fire.

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d. The 106th Cavalry Group was passed through by elements of the 45th Infantry Division. The group advance continued in conjunction with that of the infantry.

(1) Elements of the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron destroyed enemy positions west of ROTTENBACH (T4066) before elements of the 179th Infantry passed through them. The squadron then advanced with the infantry and at the close of the period secured TADTENWIND (T4466).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron outposted ROTH (T4477) and MAUK (T4268). Elements engaged an estimated 75 enemy near SPALT (T3269) and killed approximately 50.

e. XV Corps Artillery fired three observed and 16 unobserved harassing missions during the period. Forward displacement continued.

f. XV Corps Engineers completed a class 40 Bailey bridge near (T294734) and a two-way class 40 timber trestle bridge near (O 398291). Roads and bridges in the Corps zone continued to be maintained.

g. XII Tactical Air Force flew 36 sorties in support of XV Corps. Twenty-four aircraft bombed WEISZENBURG (T3652) by radar, and 12 planes flew on armed reconnaissance over the Corps front and flanks.

h. Five hundred and one prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 24, the 42d Infantry Division 137, the 45th Infantry Division 144, and the 14th Armored Division 196.

23. 23 APRIL 45.

XV Corps met sporadic resistance as it continued its attack south and gained approximately 16 kilometers. Enemy artillery activity was limited to a moderate light caliber interdiction of roads in the forward areas.

Field Message No 39 from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding General 14th Armored Division, dated 1420 23 April, in compliance with oral instructions from the Commanding General Seventh Army, directed that the 14th Armored Division halt in place and the Commanding General thereof report without delay to the Commanding General III Corps. (29, 29a).

Operations Instructions No 139 Seventh Army, dated 23 April, extended the boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps along the line: FEUCHTWANGEN (S8866) - NORDLINGEN (T0231) - DONAUWORTH (T2318) - MUNICH (Y5556) (all to XV Corps) - AUGSBURG (Y3480) FURSTENFELD (Y6159) - HOLZKIRCHEN (Y9627) (to XXI Corps), and directed in substance that:

XXI Corps prepare on Army order to pass one infantry division to the control of XV Corps in the area west of MUNICH;

XV Corps advance rapidly in its zone and capture MUNICH, thereafter employ mobile forces and exploit the INN River valley with utmost speed. (32).

Operations Instructions No 141 Seventh Army, dated 23 April, confirmed an oral agreement between the Commanding General Seventh Army and the Commanding General Third Army directing in substance that:

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The 14th Armored Division be relieved from attachment to Seventh Army and XV Corps at 1200, 23 April, and be attached to Third Army;

The 20th Armored Division be relieved from attachment to Third Army and be attached, at 1200, 23 April, to Seventh Army and further attached to XV Corps. (30).

Operations Instructions No 142 Seventh Army, dated 23 April, directed in substance that XV Corps, prior to its attack on MUNICH, prepare to furnish three battalions of infantry or engineers and one cavalry troop to the Sixth Army Group "T" Force for operations in the MUNICH area. (31).

Operations Instructions No 183 XV Corps, dated 1830, 23 April, directed in substance that:

The 42d Infantry Division with one medium tank battalion and one armored field artillery battalion attached from the 20th Armored Division, continue its advance south, cross the DANUBE and LECHT Rivers in its zone, protect the Corps right flank, and prepare to continue its advance southeast on Corps order;

The 45th Infantry Division with the 106th Cavalry Group attached, continue its advance, cross the DANUBE River in its zone, seize and hold crossings of the LECHT River in the vicinity of (T3216) until relieved by the 42d Infantry Division, advance to the high ground in the area: (Y3798) - (T4502) to hold the Corps bridgehead, protect the Corps left flank, and prepare to continue its advance to the southeast;

The 20th Armored Division, in Corps reserve, move 24 April to clear and assemble in the area: DINKLESBUHL (S8956) - BECHHOFFEN (T0566) - WASSERTRUDIGEN (T0953) - OTTINGEN (T1043) - NORDLINGEN (T0231), select one medium tank battalion and one armored field artillery battalion to be attached to the 42d Infantry Division in place, and prepare for further movement to the southeast on six hours notice;

The 106th Cavalry Group be attached in its present positions to the 45th Infantry Division;

All elements of the 42d and 45th Infantry Divisions and Corps Artillery close south of the line: ALTIUHL River to GUNZENHAUSEN (T2061) - road to STOPFENHEIM (T3057) - ELLINGEN (T3656) before daylight 24 April to permit eastward movement of elements of Third Army. (33).

a. The 42d Infantry Division attacked and gained approximately 20 kilometers against slight resistance.

(1) The 242d Infantry on the right attacked to expand its bridgehead south of the ALTIUHL River and by 0700 the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion had advanced three kilometers. The attack was continued at 0900 with the 2d Battalion in the lead, followed by the 3d and 2d Battalions in that order. By the end of the period the 2d Battalion had advanced against slight resistance to positions in the vicinity of (T185382), the 3d Battalion was near (T194443), and the 1st Battalion was in the vicinity of (T190542).

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(2) All battalions of the 232d Infantry on the division left had crossed the ALTMUHL River by 0700, and their attack was continued south at 1100. The 1st Battalion in the lead advanced over difficult terrain against slight resistance to the vicinity of (T221413). The 3d and 2d Battalions in that order followed the advance and reached the vicinity of (T223429) and (T235487) by the close of the period.

(3) The 222d Infantry, in reserve, moved to the area (T1946) - (T1950).

b. The 45th Infantry Division crossed the ALTMUHL River and continued south against sporadic resistance.

(1) The 157th Infantry on the right continued its attack south with the 3d Battalion in the lead. It met slight small arms fire as it cleared STIRN (T3665), crossed the ALTMUHL River, and reached the vicinity of (T275500) by 1700. At this hour the 2d and 1st Battalions passed through the 3d Battalion and continued their attack south against sporadic resistance to reach the vicinity of AVERNHEIM (T2445) and (T298451) by the close of the period.

(2) The 179th Infantry continued its attack behind the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron at 0700 with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion cleared DIEFURT (T3443) after a short fire fight, and the 2d Battalion took GOHRER (T3944) against slight opposition. The 3d Battalion advanced through the other two battalions and was fighting in SCHAMBACH (T3545) at the close of the period.

(3) The 180th Infantry, in division reserve, moved to WEISZENBERG (T3653).

c. The 14th Armored Division continued its attack south against moderate opposition. CCA had reached the vicinity of (T5375), CCB was in RYERBAUM (T5783), and CCR had reached EYSLODEN (T9364) by 1200 when control of the division passed to Third Army.

d. The 20th Armored Division was attached to XV Corps at 1200 and began preparation for movement to the Corps zone.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued its advance south in conjunction with elements of the 45th Infantry Division. Late in the period the group was attached to the 45th Infantry Division.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron met slight opposition as it reconnoitered ELLINGEN (T3557), OBERNDORF (T3757) and DETTENHEIM (T3448). SCHAMBACH (T3546) was found to be strongly defended, and elements of the 45th Infantry Division attacked the town near the close of the period.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron outposted MAUK (T4286), EMETZHEIM (T3450); and WEISZENBURG (T3653).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired eleven observed missions and one unobserved mission on enemy personnel and vehicles along the Corps front, and continued to displace forward.

g. XV Corps Engineers completed a 48 foot treadway bridge near (T3657), and continued to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

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h. XII Tactical Air Force flew 36 sorties in support of XV Corps. Twelve aircraft were on armed reconnaissance over the Corps front and flanks, and 24 sorties, on long range missions, bombed and strafed enemy gun positions and airfields.

i. One thousand one hundred and sixty-two prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 166, the 42d Infantry Division 238, and the 45th Infantry Division 758.

24. 24 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps continued its attack south toward the DANUBE River against initially weak resistance that stiffened on the Corps right flank late in the period after leading elements had advanced 18 kilometers. Sporadic light caliber artillery fire fell in forward portions of the zone.

a. The 42d Infantry Division with the 27th Tank Battalion, 20th Armored Division attached, continued its attack south and advanced up to 18 kilometers against scattered resistance.

(1) The 242d Infantry on the right renewed its attack at 0700 with two battalions abreast, and was delayed more by undefended road blocks and difficult terrain than by enemy fire until late in the period when resistance stiffened. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion captured WEIDING (T1935), RUDELSTETTEN (T1332), GOSHEIM (T1930), HUISHEIM (T1829), and MUNDLING (T2026) before they met enemy small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire near the end of the period. The 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of (T215267) and the 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (T223275) as the period closed. The 1st Battalion in reserve moved to the vicinity of (T200259).

(2) The 232d Infantry attacked south at 0700 with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left. Early in the period the 2d Battalion passed through the 1st Battalion and continued south. Resistance was negligible as the regiment advanced 18 kilometers but stiffened toward the end of the period when leading elements met automatic weapons and small arms fire. The 2d Battalion reached the vicinity of (T271262) and the 3d Battalion was near (T298310) as the period closed. The 1st Battalion, in reserve, was in the vicinity of (T275320).

(3) The 222d Infantry remained in division reserve in the vicinity of HEIDENSHEIM (T1950).

b. The 45th Infantry Division, with the 106th Cavalry Group attached, resumed its attack south at 1200 against slight opposition.

(1) The 3d Battalion 157th Infantry attacked south followed by the 1st and 2d Battalions echeloned to the right and left respectively. By the end of the period the 1st Battalion had cleared ROTHENBERG (T2834), the 3d Battalion (with the 191st Tank Battalion, 20th Armored Division, in support) had taken WARCHING (T3231), and the 2d Battalion had cleared WITTERSHEIM (T3234). The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, attached from the 106th Cavalry Group, worked closely with the 157th Infantry and by the close of the period had occupied TAGMERSHEIM (T3730).

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(2) The 179th Infantry, screened by the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, attacked on the left of the division zone with the 3d and 2d Battalions abreast. The 3d Battalion on the right cleared MUEHLHEIM (T3834) and the 2d Battalion took MORNESHEIM (T3935) by the end of the period. The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron advanced to WELHEIM (T4529) and HAUNSFELD (T4233). The 1st Battalion, in reserve, was in the vicinity of (T3341).

(3) The 180th Infantry remained in its division reserve position in the vicinity of (T345509).

c. The 20th Armored Division, less CCB, moved at 1200 from the vicinity of MARKBREIT (N7422) to an assembly area in the vicinity of FEUCHTWANGEN (S8866) and closed by the end of the period. CCB advanced at 1400 to clear the division assembly area, met no enemy, and was closing in an assembly area in the vicinity of NEGESHEIM (T1341) as the period ended.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired 35 harassing, one counterbattery, and two registration missions in support of the attacking divisions.

e. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery reported seven enemy aircraft over the 42d Infantry Division zone during the period.

f. XV Corps Engineers constructed a two-way class 40 timber trestle bridge near (T293735), a 48 foot 12-2 treadway bridge near (T362586), a 60 foot Bailey bridge at TROMMETSHEIM (T2852), and were constructing an 83 foot steel stringer bridge at (T440775) to replace the Bailey bridge there.

g. XII Tactical Air Force flew 30 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. Twelve sorties in close support of the 42d Infantry Division bombed and strafed GRAISBACH (T3321); 12 aircraft in close support of the 45th Infantry Division bombed and strafed motor and horse drawn transport in the vicinity of MONHEIM (T2831) and RAIN (T2415). The remainder of the aircraft were on armed reconnaissance over the Corps zone.

h. Nine hundred and fifty-six prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 21, the 45th Infantry Division 549, and the 42d Infantry Division 386.

25. 25 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps reached the DANUBE River in the zones of both infantry divisions and prepared to assault the river line. Enemy artillery was moderate along the river and negligible in the remainder of the Corps zone.

a. The 42d Infantry Division, with the 27th Tank Battalion 20th Armored Division attached, broke initially stiff resistance and advanced to the north bank of the DANUBE River.

(1) The 242d Infantry, less Company G, and with two platoons 27th Tank Battalion attached, met initially strong resistance from machine gun and mortar fire as it attacked on the right at 0300 with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast. The 1st Battalion was committed on the left of the other two, and at 0600 the resistance broke and the regiment advanced seven kilometers to reach the north bank of the DANUBE. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion on the right was in the vicinity of (T239184) and the 1st Battalion was near (T292195). The 3d Battalion was near (T230209).

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(2) At 0030 the 232d Infantry, with Company "A" 27th Tank Battalion attached, attacked with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast against heavy resistance from small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire and made slow progress until 0600 when enemy resistance weakened and the regiment advanced against slight opposition to the DANUBE River. At the close of the period the 2d Battalion on the right was near (T301205), the 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of (T335224), and the 1st Battalion was in the vicinity of (T300250).

(3) The 222d Infantry, less Companies "E" and "F", remained in reserve in the vicinity of FLOTZHEIM (T2531).

(4) A force composed of the 27th Tank Battalion less detachment, Companies "E" and "F" 222d Infantry, Company "G" 242d Infantry, two platoons of Company "A" 142d Engineer Battalion, and two platoons of Company "A" 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion attacked south early in the period against slight resistance and cleared DONAUWORTH (T2317).

b. The 45th Infantry Division, with the 106th Cavalry Group attached, attacked south against moderate resistance and reached the DANUBE River in its zone.

(1) The 157th Infantry attacked at 0700 with the 3d Battalion motorized moving in two columns, followed by the 1st and 2d Battalions. The attack met initially scattered resistance which stiffened as leading elements approached the DANUBE River. Intense small arms, mortar, and artillery fire prevented a crossing. At the end of the period the 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of MOLHEIM (T2831) and WARCHING (T3231). The 1st Battalion, on the right was in the vicinity of ROTHENBURG (T2834), and the 2d Battalion on the left was near WITTESHEIM (T3234).

(2) The 179th Infantry attacked south against intermittently strong resistance from enemy delaying groups. By the end of the period the 2d Battalion on the right had cleared HEILENHOFEN (T5228), and the 3d Battalion on the left had occupied TRIEDELHEIM (T4423). The 1st Battalion occupied positions behind the leading elements in the vicinity of BITTENBRUNN (T5121), LAISACHER (T5222), and RIED (T5322).

(3) The 180th Infantry remained in division reserve, moved to the vicinity of UBERSFELD (T3527), and prepared to cross the DANUBE River.

(4) The 106th Cavalry Group continued to reconnoiter forward of the 157th and 179th Infantry Regiments.

c. The 20th Armored Division, less the 27th Tank Battalion, remained in the vicinity of (T082355) and reconnoitered routes to the DANUBE River in the zones of the 45th and 42d Infantry Divisions.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired two counterbattery, three registration, and two harassing missions, all observed, during the day. Twenty-three harassing missions and six time-on-target missions were fired on enemy held towns south of the DANUBE River during the night.

e. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery engaged two enemy aircraft over the

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Corps zone during the period and destroyed one.

f. XV Corps Engineers repaired a blown two-way traffic bridge near (T342450), removed the Bailey bridge near (T299730), and continued to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

g. XII Tactical Air Force flew 74 sorties in support of XV Corps during the day. Twelve aircraft in close support of the 42d Infantry Division bombed and strafed motor and horse drawn transport at RAIN (T2415) and 44 sorties in support of the 45th Infantry Division attacked transport at NEUBURG (T5321). The remainder of the aircraft were flown on long range missions.

h. One thousand two hundred and forty prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 88, the 42d Infantry Division 597, the 45th Infantry Division 449, and the 20th Armored Division 106.

26. 26 APRIL 1945.

The two infantry divisions of XV Corps crossed the DANUBE River before daylight in assault boats and DUKWs against resistance that varied from moderate to slight, expanded their bridgehead, and by the close of the period had crossed the LECH River on the Corps right. Sporadic enemy artillery fire fell on assault elements as they crossed and light caliber artillery fire interdicted crossing sites and bridges throughout the period.

A field message from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding General Seventh Army, dated 1615, 26 April, stated that a vast swamp area north, northeast, and northwest of MUNICH make an attack from those directions unprofitable; and requested that the boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps be changed to the line: AUGSBURG (Y7934) - north tip of AMMERSEE (Y5248) - BAD TOLZ (Y8514) (all to XXI Corps), to allow XV Corps to maneuver south and west of MUNICH. (38).

A message from the Commanding General Seventh Army, dated 2200, 26 April adjusted the boundary between Third Army and Seventh Army (XV Corps) to the line: Highway 13 between ANSBACH (T0680) and PORNBAACH (T7408) all to Third Army, and gave running rights on the INGOLSTADT-MUNICH highway to XV Corps. (39).

a. The 42d Infantry Division, with the 27th Tank Battalion attached, forced a crossing of the DANUBE River with two regiments and in two places.

(1) The 1st Battalion 242d Infantry crossed the DANUBE at 0045 in assault boats in the vicinity of SCHAFSTAHL (T2818) and met slight enemy small arms fire but had considerable difficulty with the swift current. The 3d Battalion followed and pushed through the 1st Battalion to advance approximately seven kilometers south against slight resistance. The 2d Battalion remained in DONAUWORTH (T2417).

(2) The 2d Battalion of the 232d Infantry crossed the DANUBE River at 0308 in assault boats in the vicinity of ALTESHEIM (T3019) against slight enemy small arms fire. The 3d Battalion followed, passed through the 2d Battalion, and both battalions advanced toward the bridge over the LECH River in the vicinity of (T326164) which was blown at 0800. Elements of the 142d Engineer Combat Battalion which had crossed the DANUBE River in the assault waves constructed an improvised wooden span across the LECH River in the vicinity of (T326164), and at 2355 the 2d Battalion crossed to continue

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its attack south. The 3d Battalion remained in the vicinity of (T325164). The 1st Battalion crossed the DANUBE River after the other two battalions and remained in the vicinity of (T302195).

(3) The 222d Infantry remained in division reserve in the vicinity of (T2531).

(4) The 42d Infantry Division's force of armor, infantry, and engineers employed on 25 April was disbanded, and late in the period all attachments reverted to control of their parent units. The 27th Tank Battalion 20th Armored Division, was then attached as follows: One medium tank company to 232d Infantry, one medium tank company to the 242d Infantry, and the 27th Tank Battalion, less two companies, to the 222d Infantry.

b. The 45th Infantry Division crossed the DANUBE River at 1500 with all three regiments. The 106th Cavalry Group, attached, remained north of the river.

(1) The 1st and 2d Battalions of the 157th Infantry crossed the river simultaneously. The 1st Battalion on the right crossed near (T362205) in DUKWs and assault boats against stiff small arms fire, and by the end of the period was making slow progress against stiff resistance. Elements were in the vicinity of (T357191), (T350183), and (T368164) as the period ended. The 2d Battalion crossed in assault boats in the vicinity of (T395201) against slight resistance, and at the close of the period was moving rapidly toward STAUDHEIM (T3816). The 3d Battalion was prepared to cross behind the 2d Battalion as the period closed.

(2) The 180th Infantry, in the center of the division, crossed the DANUBE River against slight small arms fire in column of battalions. The 3d Battalion in the lead was followed by the 1st and 2d Battalions in that order. By the close of the period, the 3d Battalion had reached (T441175), and (T428183). 1st Battalion elements had reached (T417193) and (T413200) and the 2d Battalion was in the woods in the vicinity of (T407195).

(3) The 179th Infantry crossed the DANUBE on the division left at two points, against artillery and sniper fire. The 3d Battalion crossed in assault boats near (T464202), and occupied UNTERHAUSEN (T4618) and OBERHAUSEN (T4718), against sniper fire. The 1st Battalion on the left crossed in the vicinity of (T520211) against slight small arms fire, by-passed NEUBURG (T5320) to the east, and at the end of the period was in the vicinity of GIMDENFELD (T5218). The 2d Battalion followed the 1st Battalion and cleared NEUBURG against slight opposition.

(4) The 106th Cavalry Group protected the left flank of the 45th Inf. Division. The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron cleared EGWEIL (T5727), MONCHENLOHE (T5630), and BERGHEIM (T5924). The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron remained in group reserve.

c. The 20th Armored Division, from its assembly area in the vicinity of (T0835), continued to reconnoiter in the zones of the 45th and 42d Infantry Divisions for routes to bridges over the DANUBE.

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d. XV Corps Artillery fired five counterbattery missions during the period. In preparation for the crossing of the DANUBE River, 39 observed and 57 unobserved harassing missions were fired in the zones of the infantry divisions. During the night, an extensive harassing program was maintained on roads and villages south of the DANUBE.

e. XV Corps Anti-aircraft Artillery engaged four raids totalling six enemy aircraft over the corps zone and destroyed one.

f. XV Corps Engineers completed at 1840 a 225 foot heavy pontoon bridge across the DANUBE River near (T289180), constructed a steel stringer bridge near (T440775) and continued to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

g. XII Tactical Air Force flew 140 sorties in support of XV Corps. Twenty-eight sorties in close support of the 42d Infantry Division bombed and strafed MUNSTER (T3408), HOLZHEIM (T3706), RAIN (T3415), and BAYEROILLING (T3711). Forty sorties in close support of the 45th Infantry Division attacked BURGHEIM (T4116) and UNTER and OBER HAUSEN (T4512). The remainder of the aircraft were on armed reconnaissance over the Corps zone, or were protecting bridges across the DANUBE River.

h. Two thousand two hundred and seven prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 275, the 42d Infantry Division 845, the 45th Infantry Division 824, and the 20th Armored Division 263.

27. 27 APRIL 1945.

XV Corps expanded its bridgehead over the DANUBE and LECH Rivers against sporadic resistance and late in the period assembled the 20th Armored Division south of the river in preparation for an armored thrust to the south. Enemy artillery activity was limited to scattered light caliber harassing fire on forward elements.

A message from the Commanding General Seventh Army to the Commanding General XV Corps, dated 1215, 27 April, confirmed the oral order of the Commanding General that the boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps would be changed temporarily to the line: AUGSBURG - MUNICH Autobahn (to XXI Corps). (34)

Operations Instructions No. 186 XV Corps, dated 1230, 27 April, directed in substance, that:

The 45th and 42d Infantry Divisions continue their present mission of clearing routes of advance for the 20th Armored Division; each division prepare to follow the armor closely with one motorized RCT when passed through by the 20th Armored Division;

The 20th Armored Division regain control of one medium tank battalion and one armored FA Battalion attached to 42d Infantry Division, move without delay to an assembly area north of the DANUBE River in the area: (T2030) - (T4025), prepare on three hours' notice to cross the DANUBE River, pass through the 42d and 45th Infantry Divisions, advance on a broad front in the Corps zone to seize crossings of the PAAR River in the vicinity of (Y462835), AICHACH (Y5190), and SCHROBENHAUSEN (T6100), continue to the southeast and seize crossings of the AMPER River in the vicinity of GEISELBULLACH (Y6865), DACHAU (Y7468),

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AMPERMOCHING (Y8784), and NOBACH (Y8479), and thereafter be prepared on Corps order to continue to MUNICH or to move east to protect the Corps left flank. (35)

Operations Instructions No. 187 XV Corps, dated 1530, 27 April, directed, in substance, that:

The 42d and 45th Infantry Division prepare on Corps order to clear routes and an assembly area in the vicinity of (T3213) - (T4515) for the 20th Armored Division;

The 20th Armored Division be prepared on three hours' notice to move by three designated routes to cross the DANUBE and LECH Rivers and assembly in the area: (T3213) - (T4515); or, on Corps order, to pass through the 42d and 45th Infantry Division and seize the objectives assigned it in Operations Instructions No. 186 XV Corps. (36)

A field message from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding General 20th Armored Division, dated 2205, 27 April, directed the division to comply with Operations Instructions No. 187 XV Corps, leading elements to arrive at the bridges across the DANUBE River by 0630, 28 April. (37)

a. The 42d Infantry Division continued its attack against sporadic resistance, initially with the 232d and 242d Infantry Regiments abreast. Late in the afternoon, the 222d Infantry passed through the other two and continued its attack.

(1) The 242d Infantry on the right crossed the LECH River against scattered resistance with the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left. Leading elements reached (T320160) by 1800, when the 222d Infantry passed through, and the regiment moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (T365025), where it was closing as the period ended.

(2) The 232d Infantry continued its attack south with the 1st and 2d Battalions abreast and reached positions in the vicinity of (T337165) where the 222d Infantry passed through late in the period. The regiment was enroute, as the period closed, to assemble in the vicinity of (T390050).

(3) The 222d Infantry, initially in reserve in the vicinity of (T301-159), late in the afternoon passed through forward positions of the other two regiments and continued its attack against slight resistance. The 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion attacked abreast. By the end of the period the 1st Battalion had reached (T363035), the 2d Battalion was near (T398017), and the 3d Battalion, following in reserve, was in the vicinity of (T370082).

b. The 45th Infantry Division, with the 106th Cavalry Group attached, completed crossing the DANUBE River and continued its advance south against slight opposition.

(1) The 157th Infantry on the right continued its attack south at 0700 against slight resistance. At the close of the period, the 3d Battalion, in the lead, had reached the vicinity of (T445047), and the 1st and 2d Battalions in order behind the 3d Battalion, had reached the vicinity of (T394115) and WENGEN (T4212), respectively.

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(2) The 180th Infantry, in the center of the division zone, attacked south with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion. At the end of the period, the 1st Battalion was near (T472119), and the 3d Battalion had reached (T500105). The 2d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of BURGHEIM (T4116).

(3) The 179th Infantry on the left attacked south against sporadic small arms fire with all three battalions abreast. By the end of the period, the 3d Battalion on the right had reached the vicinity of ROHRENFELS (T5115), the 1st Battalion was near (T5115), the 1st Battalion was near (T532189), and the 2d Battalion on the left was in the vicinity of (T535205).

(4) The 106th Cavalry Group completed crossing the DANUBE River. At the end of the period, the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance was enroute to an assembly area in the vicinity of NEUBERG (T5320). The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron continued south on the left flank of the 45th Infantry Division after it crossed the DANUBE River. The squadron made no enemy contact, and at the end of the period was in the vicinity of MAXFELD (T5715).

c. CCA and CCB 20th Armored Division closed in the division assembly area north of the DANUBE River in the vicinity of BAIERFELD (T2826) by 2200 and at the end of the period CCR was enroute to join them.

d. XV Corps Artillery fired five counterbattery missions during the period. Forty-two observed and six unobserved missions were fired on enemy targets in the Corps zone. Units continued to displace forward.

e. XV Corps Engineers established ferries to cross troops over the DANUBE and LECH Rivers and completed three bridges across the DANUBE River, during the period: a 372 foot class 40 treadway bridge near (T358202), a 375 foot heavy pontoon bridge near (T412212), and a 372 foot class 40 treadway bridge near (T385202). In addition, XV Corps Engineers completed a 276 foot class 40 treadway bridge in the vicinity of (T328164).

f. XII Tactical Air Force flew 76 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. Sixteen sorties, in close support of the 42d Infantry Division bombed and strafed tanks and motor transport near (Y375175). Thirty-seven aircraft in close support of the 45th Infantry Division bombed LANGENMOOSEN (T5607), SCHROBENHAUSEN (T6003), and PFAFFENHAUSEN (Y7899). Two aircraft were on armed reconnaissance over the Corps zone, and the remainder of the sorties were on long range missions.

g. Two thousand and forty prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 63, the 42d Infantry Division 203, the 45th Infantry Division 1447, and the 20th Armored Division 327.

28. 28 APRIL 1945:

The 20th Armored Division seized a bridge intact across the PAAR River in the right portion of XV Corps zone, and advances up to 20 kilometers were made across the Corps front. The 3d Infantry Division was attached to XV Corps at 2300. Enemy artillery was silent.

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Ltr Hq XV Corps to TAG AG 314.7 (G), "After Action Reports" 1 June 1945.

A field message from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding General 45th Infantry Division and the Commanding Officer, 106th Cavalry Group dated 0925, 28 April, directed that the 106th Cavalry Group be released immediately from attachment to the 45th Infantry Division, and further directed that the 106th Cavalry Group protect the left flank of the Corps, and reconnoiter toward GRANECK (Y9376). (38)

Operations Instructions No. 145 Seventh Army, dated 28 April, assigned, effective immediately, as a new boundary between Third Army and Seventh Army (XV Corps) the line: northwest of FREISING, no change - FREISING (Y9585) to Third Army - EDLUNG (Z3047) - PRIEN (Z4428) both to Seventh Army - ST JOHANN (E5391) - KITZBUHEL (E5182) - BRAMBERG (E4863) - HINTEREGG (V8726) all to Third Army, and directed, in substance, that:

XXI Corps prepare to attach one division to XV Corps west of MUNICH on Army order;

XV Corps, after the isolation of MUNICH, attack with strong mobile forces on the axis: ROSENHEIM (Z2827) - WORGEL (E2685) - STRASS (E0874) and then reconnoiter to the east, prepare to assist Third Army in its advance toward SALZBURG, and garrison MUNICH after its capture. (39)

A message from the Commanding General Seventh Army to the Commanding General XV Corps, dated 1950, 28 April, stated that Troop "C", 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, then on guard duty at Headquarters Sixth Army Group, would return to its parent unit on or about 30 April. (40)

A telephone message from the Commanding General, Seventh Army to the Commanding General XV Corps at 2300, 28 April, stated that the 3d Infantry Division was attached to XV Corps, that the temporary boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps was rescinded, and that the original boundary was again in effect. (41)

a. The 42d Infantry Division continued its advance south against scattered resistance, was passed through by the 20th Armored Division, and during the period assembled all but one of its regiments.

(1) The 222d Infantry on the right continued its attack to the south and gained three kilometers. The 1st Battalion on the right encountered scattered resistance as it advanced to the vicinity of (Y440981). The 2d Battalion reached (Y405992) by the end of the period. The 3d Battalion was in reserve near (T395-012).

(2) The 232d Infantry closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of (T392052) by 1030 after the 20th Armored Division passed through it.

(3) The 242d Infantry assembled in the area: (T385012) - (T340000) by 1030, and operated motorized patrols in the division zone.

b. The 45th Infantry Division continued its attack at 0700 with all three regiments against sporadic resistance.

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(1) The 157th Infantry on the right advanced with the 3d Battalion (motorized) in the lead. The advance met scattered resistance, and by the close of the period leading elements had reached the vicinity of (Y748770) and (Y725755). The 1st and 2d Battalions were assembled near (Y605872).

(2) The 180th Infantry in the center of the division attacked with two battalions abreast against scattered resistance. The 2d Battalion on the right reached the vicinity of (Y678946) and the 3d Battalion was in the vicinity of (650915) by the close of the period. The 1st Battalion, in reserve, was assembled in the vicinity of (T601005).

(3) The 179th Infantry on the division left attacked with the 1st Battalion in the lead against initially slight resistance which stiffened late in the period. The 1st Battalion was engaged by small arms and automatic weapons in the vicinity of (Y785972), and the 2d and 3d Battalions were assembled in the vicinity of (T770000) and (T753012), respectively.

c. The 20th Armored Division moved from its assembly area at 0630 passed through the 42d and 45th Infantry Divisions, and continued its attack south over parallel routes against slight enemy resistance.

(1) CCA on the right passed through elements of the 42d Infantry Division early in the period, by-passed all resistance possible, and by the end of the period had secured a bridge intact at AICHACH (Y5090).

(2) CCB on the left attacked through elements of the 45th Infantry Division and reached the GLONN River in the vicinity of (Y660890) by the end of the period.

(3) CCR assembled in reserve in the vicinity of (Y415998).

d. The 106th Cavalry Group protected the Corps left flank with no enemy contact.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron cleared PFFAFFENHOFEN (Y7899), SHEYER (Y7698), and REISGANG (Y7897).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered toward POBEN HAUSEN (T8813), GITTENBACH (T7803), and RAITBACH (T7506).

e. XV Corps Artillery continued to displace forward and fired no missions during the period.

f. XV Corps Engineers completed a class 40 Bailey bridge near (T356193), and an infantry foot bridge near (T327164).

g. XII Tactical Air Command supported XV Corps with eight aircraft which bombed gun positions in the vicinity of EDENHAUSEN (Y3798). Adverse weather prevented additional missions.

h. One thousand five hundred and ninety-six prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 446, the 42d Infantry Division 497, the 45th Infantry Division 595, and the 20th Armored Division 58. In addition, the 3d Infantry Division, attached to XV Corps at 2300, captured 2289 prisoners during the period.

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29. 29 APRIL 1945:

XV Corps advanced to the southeast against sporadic resistance and secured bridges over the AMPER River. In the Corps center, the 42d and 45th Infantry Divisions overran a concentration camp containing 33,000 prisoners at DACHAU. One moderate concentration of light caliber enemy shells fell on the left of the Corps zone, but elsewhere hostile artillery was inactive.

Operations Instructions No. 188 XV Corps, dated 0100, 29 April, directed, in substance, that:

The 42d and 45th Infantry Division continue the attack to the southeast and clear that portion of MUNICH northwest of the ISAR River in their respective zones;

The 3d Infantry Division attack to the southeast, cross the ISAR River in its zone, and clear that portion of MUNICH southeast of the ISAR River;

The 20th Armored Division continue its advance to the PASSING (Y7757) - UNTER SCHLEISSHEIM (Y8571) railway, coordinate thereafter with the infantry divisions, attack MUNICH within the infantry division zones, and prepare to assemble in the vicinity of AYLING (Z2138);

The 106th Cavalry Group be relieved from attachment to the 45th Infantry Division, reconnoiter to the vicinity of EBERSBERG (Z1551), and protect the Corps left flank.(42).

Operations Instructions No. 189 XV Corps, dated 1030, 29 April, directed, in substance, that:

The 3d Infantry Division advance no farther than the ISAR River on 30 April, and prepare to cross the ISAR River and advance to the east, northeast, or southeast;

The 42d Infantry Division, with one medium tank battalion attached from 20th Armored Division, continue its attack and designate one regiment to be committed on Corps order only;

The 45th Infantry Division continue its attack prepared, after the capture of that portion of MUNICH in its zone, to cross the ISAR River and advance to the east or southeast;

The 20th Armored Division, less one medium tank battalion, attack in the zones of the infantry divisions with the following limits of advance: in the 3d Infantry Division zone the GAUTING (Y7147) - PASSING (Y7757) railway, in the 42d Infantry Division zone the PASSING - MOOSACH (Y8161) railway, in the 45th Infantry Division zone the canal north of the hospital at (Y855598); upon arrival at these lines, support with fire the advance of the infantry divisions, thereafter assemble and cross the ISAR River on Corps order, and move to the area designated in Operations Instructions No. 188, XV Corps;

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The 106th Cavalry Group continue its present mission. (43)

a. The 3d Infantry Division advanced to the southeast against slight resistance and secured two bridges over the AMPER River.

(1) The 7th Infantry attacked on the division right with two battalions and seized a bridge across the AMPER River. The 3d Battalion moved rapidly from MERING (Y4168) to FRUSTENFELD (Y6159), seized a bridge intact against slight opposition, and established a bridgehead. The 2d Battalion on the left followed a course parallel to that of the 3d Battalion, and by the end of the period had cleared GUNZENHOFEN (Y5366). The 2d Battalion joined the 3d Battalion in GUNZENHOFEN.

(2) The 30th Infantry attacked in a column of battalions and secured a bridge across the AMPER River. The 2d Battalion in the lead advanced along the autobahn and secured a bridge across the AMPER River in the vicinity of (Y679648) against moderate resistance, continued its advance and by the end of the period reached (Y710675). The 1st and 3d Battalions followed in that order and reached GRABEZZELL (Y7061) and MAISACH (Y6264), respectively.

(3) The 15th Infantry guarded AUGSBURG (Y3480) and began to move at 2300 to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Y605671).

b. The 42d Infantry Division attacked to the southeast against slight scattered resistance with two regiments abreast, and at the close of the period, moved into assembly areas.

(1) The 242d Infantry on the right continued its attack at 0530 with the 3d Battalion motorized in the lead and reached the vicinity of (Y645718) where the battalion assembled as the period closed. The 1st and 2d Battalions followed in that order and cleared small by-passed pockets of resistance. At the end of the period the 1st Battalion moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Y642713) and the 2d Battalion closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of (Y640702).

(2) The 222d Infantry with one battalion motorized attacked on the left at 0635 against slight resistance. The 2d Battalion in the lead advanced south against scattered resistance to reach DACHAU (Y7579) by 1300, by the end of the period it had closed in the regimental assembly area in the vicinity of (Y725695). The 1st and 3d Battalions followed the advance to clear by-passed opposition, and late in the period closed in the regimental assembly area.

(3) The 232d Infantry, in reserve during the period, moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Y670730).

c. All three regiments of the 45th Infantry Division attacked southeast against sporadic resistance.

(1) The 3d Battalion 157th Infantry on the division right reached DACHAU (Y7670) at 1445, and was passed through by the 1st Battalion. The 1st Battalion had reached (Y745687) by the end of the period. The 2d Battalion also passed through the 3d Battalion at DACHAU and attacked south on the left of the 1st Battalion. By the close of the period the Battalion was in the vicinity of (Y765680).

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(2) The 180th Infantry advanced with two battalions abreast. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left reached (Y815765) and (Y862-681), respectively, against slight small arms and moderate mortar and artillery fire. The 1st Battalion remained in reserve in the vicinity of (Y823671).

(3) The 179th Infantry attacked in a column of battalions against sporadic resistance, including high velocity antitank fire used against personnel. The 1st Battalion, in the lead, reached the vicinity of (Y910698). The 3d and 2d Battalion abreast followed the advance clearing by-passed pockets, and at the end of the period assembled in the vicinity of (Y853822) and (Y882835).

d. The 20th Armored Division attacked against moderate resistance and secured two bridges intact.

(1) CCA attacked in the 42d Infantry Division zone and secured a bridge intact at AICHACH (Y5090) against moderate resistance, continued its attack, captured a bridge in the vicinity of (Y682653), and advanced to (Y715656).

(2) In the zone of the 45th Infantry Division CCB attacked in the direction of the airport near (Y8465) where it met stiff resistance from antitank and self-propelled artillery fire. CCB assembled near (Y860695) and prepared to renew its attack at the close of the period.

(3) CCR moved to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of PETERHAUSEN (Y7685).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group was relieved from attachment to the 45th Infantry Division and took up its mission of protecting the Corps left flank.

(1) Troop "B", 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered in advance of elements of the 45th Infantry Division to the vicinity of GARCHING (Y9169) where the troop encountered strong resistance and withdrew to DIETERSHEIM (Y9272) to allow elements of the 45th Infantry Division to attack the town. The remainder of the squadron was in reserve in the vicinity of ECHING (Y8874).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered in advance of elements of the 45th Infantry Division against slight resistance to reach the vicinity of NEUFAHRN (Y9175) and MIMTRACHING (Y9376).

f. XV Corps Artillery fired five counterbattery missions on antiaircraft artillery positions north of MUNICH.

g. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 36 foot treadway bridge at (T388137) and continued to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

h. XII Tactical Air Command flew 94 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period. Thirty-six aircraft in close support of the 3d Infantry Division bombed and strafed FURSTENFELDBRUCK (Y6159), MALLENDORF (Y5462), and HATTENHOFEN (Y5163). Four aircraft reconnoitered the zone of the 45th Infantry Division, and two aircraft reconnoitered the zone of the 20th Armored Division. The remainder of the aircraft were on long range missions.

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i. Seven thousand six hundred and thirty-four prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 525, the 3d Infantry Division 2044, the 42d Infantry Division 1098, the 45th Infantry Division 2208, and the 20th Armored Division 1759.

30. 30 APRIL 1945:

XV Corps captured MUNICH against slight small arms resistance and captured intact ten bridges over the ISAR River within the city.

A field message from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding General 20th Armored Division dated 0955, 30 April, directed that the 20th Armored Division halt all elements in the 42d Infantry Division zone and clear the roads to allow passage of the 42d Infantry Division. (44)

Operations Instructions No. 190 XV Corps dated 1300, 30 April, directed, in substance, that:

The 3d Infantry Division continue its advance, cross the ISAR River in its zone, advance to the southeast, and protect the right flank of the Corps;

The 42d and 45th Infantry Divisions continue their advance, capture that portion of MUNICH in their respective zones;

The 45th Infantry Division prepare to garrison MUNICH after its capture;

The 20th Armored Division relieve the 106th Cavalry Group on its bridgehead east of GRANECK (Y9376) at once, cross the ISAR River north of OBERFOHRNING (Y8960), capture ROSENHEIM (Z2826), thereafter advance to the south on the east side of the INN River, and protect the left flank of the Corps;

The 106th Cavalry Group reconnoiter to ROSENHEIM (Z2826) and seize bridge over the INN River in that vicinity. (45)

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued its advance south against scattered resistance and captured intact three bridges over the ISAR River.

(1) The 7th Infantry on the right continued its attack with two battalions abreast. The 3d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left reached the vicinity of (Y785500) and (Y790487), respectively by the end of the period. The 2d Battalion remained in reserve near (Y742555).

(2) The 30th Infantry advanced with the 2d Battalion on the right and the 1st Battalion on the left to clear that portion of MUNICH in its zone. By the close of the period the regiment, less one company, had crossed the ISAR River over three bridges captured in its zone, and had established a bridgehead approximately two kilometers deep, with the 2d Battalion near (Y825490) and the 1st Battalion near (Y843522).

(3) The 15th Infantry completed its move from AUGSBURG to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Y615670) and by the end of the period was prepared to pass through the 30th Infantry.

[REDACTED]

Ltr Hq XV Corps to TAG file AG 314.7 (g) "After Action Reports" 11 June 45.

b. The 42d Infantry Division renewed its attack at 1100, passed through elements of the 20th Armored Division, and cleared its zone in MUNICH.

(1) The 242d Infantry on the right met slight resistance as its attacked with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left, to reach the center of MUNICH, clearing the regimental zone. All bridges over the ISAR River were captured. The 2d Battalion, in reserve, moved behind the other two battalions and assisted in mopping up the city.

(2) The 222d Infantry continued its attack at 1100 with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left and by 1700, the regiment had cleared its zone in MUNICH and had secured all bridges over the ISAR River. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve in the vicinity of OBERLINZING (Y7659).

(3) The 232d Infantry in Corps reserve, moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Y753620).

c. The 45th Infantry Division attacked with three regiments abreast against initially stiff enemy resistance that by 1000 was broken on both flanks. Resistance in the center, however, remained stiff until approximately 2200.

(1) The 157th Infantry on the right cleared the concentration camp at (Y804614) and attacked meeting stiff small arms fire in the outskirts of MUNICH. At about 1000 enemy resistance decreased and by 1800 the regiment had pushed to its objective in the center of the city at (Y855575). The regiment patrolled to the ISAR River.

(2) The 180th Infantry in the division center met stiff resistance on the outskirts of MUNICH and attacked from house-house until approximately 2200 at which time resistance broke and the regiment advanced to its objective in the vicinity of (Y865602);

(3) The 179th Infantry attacked with the 1st and 3d Battalions abreast and reached the vicinity of (Y875600) against stiff small arms resistance. At about 1000, resistance slackened and the regiment advanced in its zone to the ISAR River, captured three bridges and secured a bridgehead.

d. The 20th Armored Division continued its attack to the outskirts of MUNICH until approximately 1030 when the infantry divisions passed thru its leading elements.

(1) CCA resumed its attack in the zone of the 42d Infantry Division at 0800 and cleared the roads at 1030 to facilitate the passage of the infantry. At the close of the period, CCA was assembling in the vicinity of FELDGEDING (Y6967).

(2) CCB attacked at 0700 and advanced against slight resistance to the vicinity of (Y860636) where it was passed through by the 45th Infantry Division. By the close of the period CCB assembled in the vicinity of (Y850712).

(3) CCR remained in an assembly area near (Y760853) during the period.

R E S T R I C T E D

+ e. The 106th Cavalry Group crossed the ISAR River and advanced to the MITTLERE ISAR KANAL against slight resistance.

(1) Early in the period the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron established a bridgehead over the ISAR River at GRANEK (Y9375) against moderate opposition. After the completion of a bridge there at 1300, the squadron continued its attack and captured a bridge intact over the MITTEL ISAR KANAL at NEIDER NEUCHING (Z0569).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron followed the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron across the ISAR River and attacked to the northeast to clear by the close of the period the area south of the Corps left boundary to the MITTLERE ISAR KANAL.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired nine observed and 23 unobserved missions during the period. Four of the observed missions were on MUNICH, and the remainder were counterbattery and harassing missions along the Corps front.

g. XV Corps Engineers constructed a 120 foot treadway bridge at (Y687653), dismantled a treadway ferry at (T293185), and reinforced to class 40 a partially destroyed bridge at GRANECK (Y9376).

h. XII Tactical Air Command flew 72 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period, attacking a barracks at (Y772613), motor transport at (Z070325), and an airdrome at (Y946557). There were no missions in close support of the infantry divisions.

i. Seventeen thousand one hundred and thirty-nine prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 903, the 3d Infantry Division 2492, the 42d Infantry Division 2911, the 45th Infantry Division 10,000, and the 20th Armored Division 833.

S U M M A R Y

The enemy failed to defend MUNICH. German resistance completely disintegrated, and by the end of the month the enemy began to surrender as units. The 9th Hungarian Cavalry Squadron and the 86th Hungarian Infantry Regiment surrendered, after the latter had put up stiff initial resistance.

However, small groups of SS troops separated from their units and bound together through desperation, offered fanatical resistance when encountered.

Because of its rapid advance, XV Corps once again encountered a difficult supply problem. However, an air drop of 400,000 gallons of gasoline at HEUBERG on 29-30 April, and continual truck convoys kept the Corps adequately supplied.

During the month, a system of dispatching tactical reconnaissance aircraft to Corps and divisions, was evolved to aid in reconnoitering in front of the Corps advance. P-51 aircraft operating in pairs reported to the Corps controller, who also gave them reconnaissance missions and laid out a route for the aircraft to follow. The pilot followed the course and reported his observations by radio directly to the Corps controller. Information on roads, bridges, streams, river banks, enemy troop locations, and friendly front line or other other information requested, was then relayed to the Corps staff section making the request.

~~SECRET~~

Ltr Hq XV Corps to TAG file AG 314.7 (G), "After Action Reports" 1 June 45.

Divisions operated in much the same manner, with the aircraft turned over to a division controller. In addition to relaying the above information, P-51 pilots also directed artillery fire, and directed flights of fighter-bombers on profitable targets.

On request, photographs were taken by the reconnaissance planes. Negatives are flown back to the base, developed, printed, and dropped at the Corps or division command post.

REPORT OF OPERATIONS

1-30 APRIL 1945

SECTION III

1. During April XV Corps smashed rapidly through German resistance that was generally slight except in large towns, which were held by fanatical enemy groups. MUNICH, however, was taken with slight opposition. Late in April the Corps entered the area designated by the Germans as the National Redoubt against the same type of opposition that it had met earlier in the month. No enemy line was encountered in the Redoubt area.

2. XV Corps destroyed 104 enemy tanks and 23 self-propelled artillery pieces during the month of April.

3. Generally, an estimate of two to three prisoners of war to each other type of casualty is considered a logical basis for determining enemy losses. However, enemy casualties during April could not be figured on this basis. Small and large scale surrenders lowered the percentage of German wounded and killed. Consequently, an estimate of 145,000 total enemy casualties was made, based on the number of prisoners captured, 128,262. During the month, the Corps contacted elements of divisions and battle groups totalling approximately 45,000, and miscellaneous units the original strength of which it is impossible to estimate. Of the 45,000 men in definable fighting formations, a total of 34,000 were believed casualties, and of the miscellaneous units, 110,000 were believed casualties. Major enemy units that faced XV Corps during the month included the 2d Panzer Division, the 2d Mountain Division, the 6th SS Mountain Division, the 9th Infantry Division, the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, the 25th SS Infantry Division, the 36th Infantry Division, the 79th Infantry Division, the 159th Infantry Division, the 212th Infantry Division, the 256th Infantry Division, the 352d Infantry Division, the 416th Infantry Division, the 553d Infantry Division, the 719th Infantry Division, Division DONAU and Division VON HOBE.

4. XV Corps' rapid advance led to the capture of 116 German hospitals and 28 Prisoners of War camps during the period, resulting in the release of 26,015 Allied prisoners.

R E S T R I C T E D

5. For clearer understanding, the report of April's activities has been divided into three phases, (1) the attack to the northeast, from 1-10 April; (2) the attack to the southeast and the capture of NURNBERG, from 11-20 April; and (3) the attack to the south, entrance into the Redoubt area, crossing of the DANUBE River, and capture of MUNICH, from 21-30 April.

Wade H. Haislip

WADE H. HAISLIP,
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

2 Incls

- Incl 1 - Footnotes
- Incl 2 - G-3 Journal and Journal File
for Apr 45.

5 Annexes

- Annex 1 - Report of AC of S G-1
- Annex 2 - Report of AC of S G-2
- Annex 3 - Report of C of S
- Annex 4 - Report of AC of S G-4
- Annex 5 - Report of AC of S G-5

R E S T R I C T E D

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<u>Footnote No</u>	<u>April Journal Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>
1	1	Operations Instructions No 163 XV Corps dated 1 April
2	2	Operations Instructions No 165 XV Corps dated 2 April
3	4	Operations Instructions No 166 XV Corps dated 4 April
4	4	Operations Instructions No 167 XV Corps dated 4 April
5	4	Operations Instructions No 122 Seventh Army dated 4 April
6	6	Operations Instructions No 168 XV Corps dated 6 April
7	7	Operations Instructions No 124 Seventh Army dated 7 April
8	7	Operations Instructions No 169 XV Corps dated 7 April
9	7	Operations Instructions No 170 XV Corps dated 7 April
10	8	Field Message from CG XV Corps to CGs 3d Inf Div and 14th Armd Div 8 April
11	10	Operations Instructions No 171 XV Corps dated 10 April
12	11	Operations Instructions No 172 XV Corps dated 11 April
13	12	Telephone message from CG Seventh Army to CG XV Corps, dated 12 April
14	12	Operations Instructions No 173 XV Corps dated 12 April
14a	13	Operations Instructions No 175 XV Corps dated 12 April
15	13	Operations Instructions No 131 Seventh Army dated 13 April

Incl 1 to Ltr Hq XV Corps ~~SECRET~~
file AG 314.7 (G)
dated 1 June 45.

<u>Footnote No</u>	<u>April Journal Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>
16	14	Operations Instructions No 176 XV Corps dated 14 April
17	15	Operations Instructions No 132 Seventh Army dated 15 April
18	15	Field message from CG XV Corps to CG 14th Armored Division dated 15 April
19	16	Field message from CG XV Corps to CGs 45th Inf Div and 14th Armored Div dtd 16 April
20	17	Operations Instructions No 177 XV Corps dated 16 April
21	17	Field Order 12, Seventh Army dtd 7 Apr
22	18	Operations Instructions No 178 XV Corps dated 18 April
23	19	Field message from CG XV Corps to CGs 45th Inf Div and 14th Armored Div, and CO 106th Cav Gp dtd 19 April
24	20	Operations Instructions No 180 XV Corps dated 20 April
25	21	Operations Instructions No 136 Seventh Army dated 20 April
26	21	Field message from CG XV Corps to CG 3d Inf Div dated 21 April
27	21	Field message from CG XV Corps to CG 45th Inf Div dated 21 April
28	22	Operations Instructions No 182 XV Corps dated 22 April
29	23	Field Message from CG XV Corps to CG 14th Armored Div dated 23 April
29a	23	Telephone conversation between CG Seventh Army and CG XV Corps on 23 April
30	23	Operations Instructions No 141 Seventh Army dated 23 April
31	23	Operations Instructions No 142 Seventh Army dated 23 April

R E S T R I C T E D

<u>Footnote No.</u>	<u>April Journal Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>
32	23	Operations Instructions No 139 Seventh Army dated 23 April
33	23	Operations Instructions No 185 XV Corps dated 23 April
34	27	Message from CG Seventh Army to CG XV Corps dated 27 April
35	27	Operations Instructions No 186 XV Corps dated 27 April
36	27	Operations Instructions No 187 XV Corps dated 27 April
37	27	Field message from CG XV Corps to CG 20th Armored Div dated 27 April
38	26	Field Message from CG XV Corps dtd 26 Apr
39	26	Message from CG Seventh Army to CG XV Corps dtd 26 April
38a	28	Field message from CG XV Corps to CG 45th Inf Div dtd 28 April
39a	28	Operations Instructions No 145 Seventh Army dated 28 April
40	28	Message from CG Seventh Army to CG XV Corps dated 28 April
41	28	Telephone conversation between CG Seventh Army and CG XV Corps on 28 Apr
42	29	Operations Instructions No 188 XV Corps dated 29 April
43	29	Operations Instructions No 189 XV Corps dated 29 April
44	30	Message from CG XV Corps to CG 14th Armored Div dated 30 April
45	30	Operations Instructions No 190 XV Corps dated 30 April

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

AG 314.7 (G)

APO 436, US Army
1 June 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Report After.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, Seventh Army)

In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, Change 3, and Memorandum, Headquarters Seventh Army, file AG 314.7 Misc., dated 7 August 1944, the following report covering the operations of XV Corps during the period 1 May - 10 May 1945, both dates inclusive, is submitted.

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of May, 1945, XV Corps was composed of the 3d Infantry Division, the 42d Infantry Division, the 45th Infantry Division, the 20th Armored Division, the 106th Cavalry Group, and attached Corps units.

All units were halted for an estimated two-day rest on 1 May in accordance with Operations Instructions No. 148, Seventh Army. The 45th Infantry Division had been designated to garrison MUNICH, and on 1 May the 3d Infantry Division, the 42d Infantry Division, and the 20th Armored Division were patrolling to their front and flanks. The 106th Cavalry Group continued to reconnoiter the INN River between the autobahn at (Z284215) and WASSERBURG (Z3550).

SECTION II

NARRATIVE

1. 1 MAY 1945:

XV Corps cleared the last resistance from the MUNICH area and troops assembled for an estimated two day rest. The 45th Infantry Division garrisoned MUNICH.

Operations Instructions No. 148 Seventh Army, dated 1 May, directed, in substance, that XV Corps complete the destruction of remaining enemy in the MUNICH area, cross the ISAR River, and thereafter rest for an estimated two days. (1)

Operations Instructions No. 191 XV Corps, dated 1330, 1 May, directed, in substance, that:

Note 1: Except where specifically indicated by footnotes, all information in this report is based on XV Corps periodic reports and on subordinate unit G-3 reports for May 1945.

Note 2: All hours are "B" hours, British Summer Time.

Note 3: All map references area to map GSGS 4416, Scale 1/100,000, Germany.

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The 3d Infantry Division assemble in the area: FAISTENHAAR (Y9739) - FELLACH (Y9830) and the 42d Infantry Division assemble in the area: BUCH (Z0648) - EGMATING (Z0241) both prepared to advance to the east or southeast on or about 3 May;

The 45th Infantry Division garrison MUNICH, assume responsibility for intelligence targets, and guard prisoners of the 3d and 42d Infantry Division.

The 20th Armored Division assume command of its medium tank battalion attached to the 42d Infantry Division and assemble in the vicinity of KREITH (Z1858) - EBERSBERG (Z1450) prepared to advance to the east or southeast on or about 3 May;

The 106th Cavalry Group continue its present mission, reconnoiter the INN River between the autobahn at (Z284215) and WASSERBURG (Z3550). (2)

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued its advance in its zone until ordered to halt and then patrolled to its front and flanks.

(1) The 15th Infantry attacked in a column of battalions, halted at 1800, and patrolled to its front and flanks. The 2d Battalion in the lead, followed by the 1st and 3d Battalions in that order, attacked against slight resistance. The 2d Battalion, at the end of the period, occupied FELLACH (Y9830) and FOCHING (Z0229). The 1st Battalion was clearing small towns and bypassed areas in the vicinity of (Y942339) as the period ended. The 3d Battalion was in reserve in the vicinity of DEISENHOFEN (Y9138).

(2) The 30th Infantry met scattered small arms fire as it advanced with two battalions abreast. By the end of the period, the 2d Battalion on the right was in the vicinity of (Z021299), and the 3d Battalion was near (Z052332). The 1st Battalion, in the rear of the 3d Battalion, was near (Z050342).

(3) The 7th Infantry advanced early in the period with its 1st and 2d Battalions abreast and cleared FORSTENREID (Y7949) and reached the ISAR River at FULIACH (Y8145) against slight opposition. At 1200, the regiment reverted to division reserve in the vicinity of (Y8238).

b. The 42d Infantry Division attacked against slight resistance across the ISAR River to secure the division assembly area.

(1) The 242d Infantry on the right attacked at 0630 with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 3d Battalion on the left and rapidly cleared its zone in the division assembly area in the vicinity of (Y955465). The 2d Battalion enroute from the zone of the 3d Infantry Division, captured an airport at (Y9049), and closed in the assembly area late in the period.

(2) The 22d Infantry continued its attack at 0530 to secure its zone in the division assembly area. The 3d Battalion secured a bridgehead across the ISAR River against negligible resistance. At 0530 the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left attacked through the 3d Battalion and advanced with slight opposition to the vicinity of (Y972518).

(3) The 232d Infantry less the 3d Battalion on "T" Force duty in MUNICH moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Y932546).

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), After Action Rpt for 1 - 10 May 45, Cont'd.

c. The 45th Infantry Division garrisoned MUNICH.

(1) The 157th Infantry occupied the northern portion of MUNICH.

(2) The 179th Infantry occupied the eastern portion of MUNICH.

(3) The 180th Infantry occupied the southwestern portion of MUNICH.

d. The 20th Armored Division cleared its area and assembled during the period.

(1) CCA moved to and cleared the division assembly area in the vicinity of (Z205555) with no opposition.

(2) CCB remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of (Y865723).

(3) CCR moved to an initial assembly area in the vicinity of (Y975715).

e. The 106th Cavalry Group continued its advance along the left flank of the Corps against scattered resistance.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron found all bridges over the MITTLERE ISAR KANAL in its zone destroyed. The squadron cleared GOLDACH (Y9775), NOTZING (Z0476), and MOOSLING (Z0572).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron seized a bridge over the MITTLERE ISAR KANAL at NIEDER NEUCHING (Z0570).

f. XV Corps Artillery units displaced east of the ISAR River.

g. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery engaged and destroyed two liaison type aircraft over the Corps zone during the period.

h. XV Corps Engineers maintained roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

i. No air targets were engaged because of poor visibility.

j. Nine thousand nine hundred and thirteen prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 1633, the 3d Infantry Division 4505, the 42d Infantry Division 3554, and the 20th Armored Division 221.

2. 2 MAY 1945:

XV Corps closed in an assembly area east of the ISAR River and late in the period began its attack toward SALZBURG.

Operations Instructions No. 149 Seventh Army, dated 2 May, announced as the boundary between Third Army and Seventh Army (XV Corps) the line: (FREISING (Y9686) - NUHLDORF (Z5571) - STRASSWALCHERN (V1146) - MONDSEE (V2030), to Third Army, the line: NEUCHING (Z6772) - ST GILGEN (V2123), to Seventh Army, and announced as the boundary between XV Corps and XXI Corps the line: HOLZKIRCHEN (Y9627) - BERNAU (Z4723) - BERCHTESGADEN (Z9406), to XXI Corps, the line: WESTERNFURF (Z2523) - HAILE (V0212), to XV Corps, and further directed, in substance, that:

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XV Corps capture SALZBURG, maintain contact with Third Army, and garrison MUNICH until further orders. (4)

Operations Instructions No. 192 XV Corps, dated 2100, 2 May, directed, in substance, that:

The 3d Infantry Division with the 106th Cavalry Group attached on arrival in the vicinity of TRAUNSTEIN (Z6731), advance in its zone without delay, capture that portion of SALZBURG west of the SALZACH River, and protect the right flank of the Corps by blocking mountain passes from the south until the arrival of elements of XXI Corps;

The 42d Infantry Division move without delay to secure INN River crossings in its zone, and on Corps order, follow the 20th Armored Division east of the INN River.

The 45th Infantry Division, less a necessary garrison for MUNICH, prepare to advance to the east on Corps order;

The 86th Infantry Division, attached to XV Corps by oral order of the Commanding General Seventh Army advance to the east, designate one regiment to be committed on Corps order, and protect the Corps left flank;

The 20th Armored Division relieve elements of the 106th Cavalry Group in WASSERBURG (Z3550), advance by multiple routes in its zone without delay, and capture TRAUNSTEIN (Z6731) and that portion of SALZBURG east of the SALZACH River.

The 106th Cavalry Group cross the INN River at WASSERBURG and advance to TRAUNSTEIN, where it becomes attached to the 3d Infantry Division. (3)

a. The 3d Infantry Division spent the major portion of the period in regrouping and at 2155 began its attack to the east with one battalion.

(1) The 7th Infantry remained in division reserve in the vicinity of (Y895432). At 2155, the 3d Battalion reinforced with tanks and tank destroyers, began the division's attack to the east and was moving as the period closed.

(2) The 15th Infantry regrouped in the vicinity of (Y952301) and patrolled to its front and flanks.

(3) The 30th Infantry remained in its area in the vicinity of (Y052325). A 3d Battalion patrol seized a bridge across the INN River at (Z294274).

b. Regiments of the 42d Infantry Division moved to new assembly areas and late in the period began attacking to the east with small forces.

(1) The 242d Infantry moved to new assembly areas. The 1st Battalion closed in the vicinity of (Z081359), and late in the period began its attack to the east. The 2d Battalion closed in the vicinity of (Z034375) and the 3d Battalion moved to the vicinity of (Z087425).

(2) The 222d Infantry moved to new assembly areas, and late in the period, two battalions sent out strong patrols. The 1st Battalion closed near (Z076465), the 2d Battalion in the vicinity of (Z159476), and the 3d Battalion

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), After Action Rpt for 1 - 10 May 45, Cont'd.

in the vicinity of (Z068507). Late in the period, the 1st and 2d Battalions sent out strong patrols to seize crossings of the INN River.

(3) The 232d Infantry, less its 3d Battalion, on "T" Force duty in MUNICH, moved to the vicinity of (Z001507).

- c. The 86th Infantry Division passed to Corps control in position at 1900 hours
- d. The 45th Infantry Division continued to occupy MUNICH.
- e. The 20th Armored Division closed in its assembly area by 1500.

(1) CCA cleared EBERSBERGER FOREST (Z1050), then moved to an assembly area near SCHWABERWEGEN (Z3958).

(2) CCB moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of EBERSBERG (Z1551).

(3) CCR moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of ANZING (Z0658).

f. The 106th Cavalry Group reconnoitered crossings sites on the INN River from WASSERBURG to ROSENHEIM (Z2827). Elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron made arrangements to accept the surrender of the 9th Hungarian Division.

g. XV Corps Artillery fired no missions during the period.

h. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain roads and bridges in support of XV Corps.

i. Adverse weather conditions prevented air support.

j. Twenty-one thousand six hundred and fifty-six prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 9886, the 3d Infantry Division 3655, the 42d Infantry Division 3625, the 45th Infantry Division 1128, and the 20th Armored Division 3362.

3. 3 MAY 1945:

XV Corps advanced rapidly with no opposition and reached the SALZACH River on its right in the zone of the 3d Infantry Division.

A field message from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding General 86th Infantry Division, dated 1530, 3 May, directed that division relieve as soon as possible elements of the 14th Armored Division holding a bridge and dam at (A452638). (5)

a. Elements of the 3d Infantry Division attacked along the autobahn toward SALZBURG and at the end of the period were assembled on the west bank of the SALZACH River seeking a crossing.

(1) The 3d Battalion 7th Infantry led the regiment's attack along the MUNICH - SALZBURG autobahn followed by the 1st and 2d Battalions in that order.

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Enemy fire was negligible. Bridges in the vicinity of SALZBURG were found to be destroyed, and at the end of the period the regiment was near PIDING (Z8821), preparing to continue its advance into SALZBURG.

(2) The 15th Infantry, in division reserve, moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of NEUKIRCHEN (Z7427).

(3) The 30th Infantry maintained security guards in its zone, and at the end of the period was enroute to a new assembly area in the vicinity of (Z643259).

(4) The 106th Cavalry Group, attached to the 3d Infantry Division, protected the division's left flank as it advanced.

b. The 42d Infantry Division continued its advance without enemy opposition.

(1) The 242d Infantry attacked in a column of battalions across the bridge at (Z293270) with the 1st Battalion in the lead followed by the 3d and 2d Battalions in that order. Leading elements of the 1st Battalion reached (Z323405) by the close of the period, and at that time the 3d and 2d Battalions were at (Z362415) and (Z310390), respectively.

(2) The 222d Infantry patrolled to the INN River and found all bridges across the river in its zone destroyed. The 2d Battalion resumed its attack at 0530, crossed the INN River on the dam at WASSERBURG, and reached (Z353495) by the close of the period. The 1st Battalion on the right crossed its foot elements on a partially destroyed bridge at (Z302242) and reached (Z320428) prior to the end of the day. The 3d Battalion, in reserve, followed the attacking echelon to the vicinity of (Z302465).

(3) The 232d Infantry, less its 3d Battalion on "T" Force duty in MUNICH, moved to a reserve position in the vicinity of (Z219465).

c. The 86th Infantry Division relieved elements of the 14th Armored Division in the vicinity of JETTENBACH (Z4562) and with one battalion continued its advance to the east.

(1) The 341st Infantry less its 3d Battalion, closed in the vicinity of ISEN (Z7066). The 3d Battalion relieved elements of the 14th Armored Division near JETTENBACH and continued its advance to the east without enemy opposition.

(2) The 342d Infantry continued to destroy enemy groups in the vicinity of HAAG (Z3061) and assembled there as the period closed.

(3) The 343d Infantry, in Corps reserve, assembled in the vicinity of LENGENDORF (Z2070).

d. The 45th Infantry Division continued to garrison MUNICH.

e. The 20th Armored Division crossed the INN River near WASSERBURG and continued its advance. Leading elements received sporadic self-propelled artillery fire.

(1) CCA crossed the INN River on the dam at WASSERBURG (Z3550), advanced against scattered self-propelled artillery fire, and reached the vicinity of (Z500459) by the end of the period.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, 314.7 (G), After Action Rpt for 1 - 10 May 45, Cont'd.

(2) CCB moved from its assembly area in the afternoon and late in the period was crossing the INN River behind CCA.

(3) CCR remained in an assembly area near ANZING (Z0658) and late in the period prepared to follow CCB.

f. XV Corps Artillery displaced forward and fired no missions.

g. XV Corps Antiaircraft Artillery destroyed two enemy aircraft over the Corps zone.

h. XV Corps Engineers constructed a Bailey bridge at (Z938759) and continued to maintain roads and bridges in support of the advance.

i. XII Tactical Air Command flew 108 sorties in support of XV Corps during the period and bombed and strafed motor transport at (Z680470), (Z519412), (Z519410) and (Z392387).

j. Ten thousand three hundred and ninety-six prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 516, the 3d Infantry Division 2890, the 42d Infantry Division 551, the 86th Infantry Division 0, the 45th Infantry Division 1417, and the 20th Armored Division 4022.

4. 4 MAY 1945:

XV Corps captured BERCHTESGADEN and SALZBURG against negligible small arms fire.

An oral order from the Commanding General Seventh Army to the Commanding General XV Corps directed that XV Corps, because of the rapid advance of its forward elements, take BERCHTESGADEN and turn the town over to the elements of XXI Corps upon their arrival.(6)

A telephone message at 0855, 4 May, from the Chief of Staff XV Corps to the Chief of Staff 3d Infantry Division, in compliance with oral orders of the Commanding General Seventh Army, directed that groups be placed, beginning at 1200, 4 May, on routes 31 and 331 east and southeast of SALZBURG to contact emissaries from Field Marshal Kesselring, and that XV Corps be informed of the contact without delay.(7)

Operations Instructions No. 193 XV Corps, dated 2200, 4 May, directed, in substance, that:

The 3d Infantry Division complete the occupation of BERCHTESGADEN and SALZBURG, and on arrival of elements of XXI Corps in BERCHTESGADEN, close in the vicinity of SALZBURG and protect the Corps right flank;

The 42d Infantry Division assemble in the vicinity of PAHLING (Z6548) and prepare to move north on Corps order;

The 86th Infantry Division assemble in the vicinity of DORFBEUERN (Z9449), and protect the left flank of the Corps, and prepare to move to the east, north-east, or southeast;

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The 20th Armored Division close in the vicinity of FRIDOLFING (Z7945);

The 106th Cavalry Group revert to Corps control at once and reconnoiter to the east and southeast. (8)

a. The 3d Infantry Division entered SALZBURG and took BERCHTESGADEN (Z9506) during the period.

(1) The 2d Battalion 7th Infantry crossed the SALZACH River near (Z888210) against slight small arms resistance at 0330 and occupied SALZBURG with no opposition at 1318. The 1st Battalion followed the 2d Battalion across the SALZACH River and pushed south against no opposition to enter BERCHTESGADEN at 1558. The 3d Battalion followed the 1st and closed in BERCHTESGADEN by the end of the period.

(2) The 15th Infantry, in reserve, remained in the vicinity of NEUKIRCHEN (Z7427).

(3) The 30th Infantry assembled in the vicinity of TRAUNSTEIN (Z6630) during the period.

b. The 42d Infantry Division continued its attack to the east, met no resistance, and reached its objective.

(1) The 242d Infantry attacked at 0530 with three battalions abreast and by 1400 all battalions had taken their objectives. The 1st Battalion was in the vicinity of (Z545375), the 2d Battalion was near (Z534409), and the 3d Battalion was near (Z525420).

(2) The 222d Infantry continued its attack at 0600 and took its objectives. At 1400 the 3d Battalion was at (Z594489), and by 1600 the 1st and 2d Battalions had reached their objectives at (Z635446) and (Z643490), respectively.

(3) The 232d Infantry, less the 3d Battalion on "T" Force duty in MUNICH, closed in a new assembly area in the vicinity of (Z465415).

c. The 86th Infantry Division continued its attack to the east and halted when all forward elements had crossed the SALZACH River.

(1) The 342d Infantry on the right advanced with no enemy contact and crossed the SALZACH River. At the end of the period, the 3d Battalion on the right was near (Z825509), the 1st Battalion was near (Z835555), and the 2d Battalion on the left was in the vicinity of (Z875579).

(2) The 341st Infantry on the left crossed the SALZACH River in its zone. At the end of the period, the 3d Battalion was near (Z832672), the 2d Battalion was in the vicinity of (Z812665), and the 1st Battalion was near (Z800642).

(3) The 343d Infantry crossed the INN River and assembled near KRAIRG (Z4864).

d. The 20th Armored Division met no opposition as it occupied that portion of SALZBURG east of the SALZACH River.

R E S T R I C T E D

Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G); After Action Rpt for 1 - 10 May 45, Cont'd.

- (1) CCA advanced through LAUFEN (Z8840) and continued to SALZBURG.
- (2) CCB advanced to the east and at the end of the period was in HOFHAN (Z9128).
- (3) CCR assembled in the vicinity of SALZBURG.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group, relieved from attachment to the 3d Infantry Division late in the period, reconnoitered to the east and blocked roads to the south.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, at the end of the period, was enroute to HALLEIN (U0212) to block to the south.

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron advanced toward SALZBURG against no opposition. As it prepared to cross a railroad bridge over the SALZACH River near (Z962265), forward elements were met by the commanding officer of the German garrison of SALZBURG who surrendered the city to the Squadron Commander at 1030.

f. XV Corps Artillery fired no missions during the period.

g. XV Corps Engineers completed a 160 foot Bailey bridge at (Z349500) and a 96 foot treadway bridge at DACHAU (Y7469).

h. No air missions were flown because of adverse weather conditions and a lack of targets.

i. Thirty thousand five hundred and eleven prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 201, the 3d Infantry Division 18,908, the 42d Infantry Division 7666, the 86th Infantry Division 1100, the 45th Infantry Division 763, and the 20th Armored Division 1873.

5. 5 MAY 1945:

XV Corps halted and assumed defensive positions during the period in preparation for the unconditional surrender of German Army Group "G" at 1200, 6 May.

During the night of 4-5 May, the 3d Infantry Division was contacted by a surrender delegation, headed by Lt. Gen. Foertsch, from German Army Group "G", the force opposing XV Corps. The German delegation, composed of eight officers besides General Foertsch, was brought by Major General John W. O'Daniel, Commanding General of the 3d Infantry Division, on instructions from XV Corps, to the THORAK Estate one mile east of HAAR. There General Jacob L. Devers, Sixth Army Group Commander, dictated terms of surrender. The United States representatives, present in addition to General Devers were Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch, Jr., Commanding General Seventh Army, Lieutenant General Wade H. Haislip, Commanding General XV Corps, Major General O'Daniel, Brigadier General Edward S. Ott, XV Corps Artillery Commander, Brigadier General R. E. Jenkins, G-3 Sixth Army Group, and Brigadier General Pearson Mencher, Chief of Staff XV Corps.

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The surrender draft was signed by General Foertsch and General Devers at the XV Corps Command Post in HAAR on 5 May, to become effective at 1200, 6 May.

Operations Instructions No. 151 Seventh Army, dated 5 May, announced the following boundary changes effective immediately: between Third Army and Seventh Army (XV Corps) the line: MONDSEE (V2130) - BAD ISCHL (V4118) - SCHLADMING (A4883) - MAUTERNDORF (Z5154), all to Seventh Army, running rights on the BAD ISCHL (V4118) - GOISERN (V4110) - BAD AUSSEE (V5408) road to Third Army; between XV Corps and XXI Corps the line: BERCHTESGADEN (Z9506) - BUCHEBEN (E9609) to XXI Corps, and directed in substance, that:

XV Corps occupy the area: MONDSEE (V2130) - WOLFGANG SEE (V2119) - DACHSTEIN GRUPPE (mountain range) - (V4090) held by enemy not under German Army Group "G", enforce the terms of surrender in its zone to the line: SALZACH River - ENNS River, assemble the 3d Infantry Division to pass to Army control in the SALZBURG area and release the 45th Infantry Division to Army control in the MUNICH area. (9)

A field message from the Commanding General XV Corps to all XV Corps units dated 2223, 5 May, announced that German Army Group "G", the force opposing Seventh Army, would surrender 1200 6 May, and directed that United States troops were not to advance after that time. (10)

a. The 3d Infantry Division moved to SALZBURG and with one regiment maintained positions in BERCHTESGADEN (Z9406).

(1) The 7th Infantry consolidated and improved its positions in BERCHTESGADEN, with the 1st and 3d Battalions guarding intelligence targets there. Late in the period the 2d Battalion moved to BERCHTESGADEN from SALZBURG.

(2) The 15th Infantry moved to SALZBURG (Z9726) and from positions in the eastern and southern portion of town, protected the division right flank.

(3) The 30th Infantry moved to SALZBURG (Z9726) and guarded intelligence targets in the portion of the town east of the SALZACH River.

b. The 42d Infantry Division assembled during the period.

(1) The 222d Infantry assembled with its battalions in the following areas: 1st Battalion (Z670520), 2d Battalion (Z650513), and the 3d Battalion (Z651547).

(2) The 3d Battalion 232d Infantry remained on "T" Force duty in MUNICH. The 1st Battalion closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of (Z719502) and the 2d Battalion closed near (Z748527) during the period.

(3) The 242d Infantry closed in an assembly area with its battalions in the following locations: 1st Battalion (Z730407), 2d Battalion (Z720450), 3d Battalion (Z690404).

c. The 86th Infantry Division closed in an assembly area during the period.

(1) The 342d Infantry assembled in the vicinity of (Z965404).

(2) The 341st Infantry assembled in the vicinity of (Z982554).

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), After Action Rpt for 1 - 10 May 45, Cont'd.

(3) The 343d Infantry assembled in the vicinity of (Z950602).

d. The 45th Infantry Division continued to garrison MUNICH.

e. The 20th Armored Division moved to its assembly area, and two combat commands closed by the end of the period.

(1) CCA closed in the vicinity of (Z853389) at 2200.

(2) CCB was enroute to an assembly area in the vicinity of (Z798456) at the end of the period.

(3) CCR closed in an assembly area near SALZBURG (Z9229) at 2200.

f. The 106th Cavalry Group reconnoitered to the east and southeast.

(1) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron met no opposition as it secured EBENAU (V0725), SCHIEDBACH (V0517), and PUCH (V0100).

(2) The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered to the south-east against slight small arms fire from dug-in enemy in the vicinity of (V085225) and at the end of the period were enroute to FUSCH (V1626).

g. XV Corps Artillery fired no missions during the period.

h. XV Corps Engineers maintained roads and bridges in the Corps zone.

i. No air targets were engaged in the Corps zone.

j. Twenty-six thousand two hundred and ninety-one prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 622, the 3d Infantry Division 1034, the 42d Infantry Division 11,399, the 45th Infantry Division 600, and the 86th Infantry Division 2500, and the 20th Armored Division 10,136.

6. 6 MAY 1945:

XV Corps began a program of maintenance and rehabilitation and elements prepared to occupy that portion of its sector defended by enemy troops not under German Army Group "G".

A field message from the Commanding General XV Corps to the Commanding Officer 106th Cavalry Group, dated 0850, 6 May, directed that all elements halt in place with the exception of the one troop enroute to rescue captured artillery personnel in ST GILGEN (V2123). (11)

Operations Instructions No. 194 XV Corps, dated 1700, 6 May, in compliance with Operations Instructions No. 151 Seventh Army, directed, in substance, that:

The 3d Infantry Division assemble in the SALZBURG area and revert to Seventh Army control at 1800, 6 May:

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The 45th Infantry Division, in MUNICH, revert to Seventh Army control immediately;

The 42d Division on Corps order advance in its zone to the southeast as far as the line: SALZACH River - EENS River, enforce surrender terms in the western portion of its zone, and clear the DACHSTEIN GRUPPE (mountain area) (V4090) in the eastern portion of its zone;

The 86th Infantry Division advance on Corps order, enforce surrender terms in the northwestern portion of its zone, and clear the area: MONDSEE (V2130) - WOLFGANGS SEE (V2819) of enemy not under German Army Group "G";

The 20th Armored Division revert to Corps reserve in place;

The 106th Cavalry Group revert to Corps reserve in the vicinity of SALZBURG when infantry division pass through its forward elements. (12)

a. The 7th Infantry 3d Infantry Division was relieved in BERCHTESGADEN by elements of XII Corps and moved to the division assembly area in the vicinity of SALZBURG, where at 1800, the division passed to Seventh Army control.

b. The 42d Infantry Division remained assembled in the vicinity of DAILING (Z6545) and maintained weapons, vehicles, and equipment. The 232d Infantry, from positions near TITTMONING (Z7553), outposted the AUSTRIAN border.

c. The 86th Infantry Division completed closing into its assembly area in the vicinity of NEU OBENDORF (Z3340) and maintained vehicles and equipment.

d. The 45th Infantry Division, garrisoning MUNICH, passed to control of Seventh Army at 1800.

e. The 20th Armored Division closed in the vicinity of WOLKERSDORF (Z7848) and maintained its vehicles and equipment.

f. The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron 106th Cavalry Group released captured XV Corps artillery personnel in ST GILGEN (V2123) and guarded Gestapo headquarters in SALZBURG. The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron outposted FUCH (V0116), PERNEGG (V1008), and VIGAUN (V0510).

g. XV Corps Artillery assembled in the area southwest of SALZBURG.

h. XII Tactical Air Command flew 24 reconnaissance sorties during the period, but engaged no targets.

i. Twenty thousand nine hundred and two prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 568, the 3d Infantry Division 12,359, the 42d Infantry Division 4,000, the 86th Infantry Division 2,500, the 45th Infantry Division 741, and the 20th Armored Division 734.

7. 7 MAY 1945:

XV Corps units at the end of the period were engaged in occupying and policing the sector assigned the Corps by Seventh Army.

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), After Action Rpt for 1 - 10 May 45, Cont'd.

Operations Instructions No. 195 XV Corps, dated 1430, 7 May, directed that Corps units secure occupied towns, maintain security patrols, maintain roadblocks, evacuate prisoners of war, and coordinate with adjacent commanders within the following sectors:

The 3d Infantry Division, the vicinity of SALZBURG;

The 42d Infantry Division, the area: LEONHARDSEFENZEN (Z2929) - SCHAMBACH (Z3155) - TITTMONING (Z7452) - WAGING (Z7338);

The 86th Infantry Division, the area: ELSEBETH (Z4058) - MITTLING (Z7473) - HORING (Z9855) - LAUFEN (Z8840) - HORNDL (Z7756);

The 20th Armored Division, the area: SIMS SEE (Z3628) - FEISENDORF (Z8029) - FRIEDOLFING (Z7945);

XV Corps Artillery, the area southwest of SALZBURG. (13)

A message from the Commanding General, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force to the Commanding General XV Corps, dated 0410, 7 May, announced that the German High Command signed an unconditional surrender agreement at 0141, 7 May, to take effect at 0001, 9 May, and directed that forward movement of Allied troops cease at once, and full defensive precautions be taken. (14)

a. The 3d Battalion 232d Infantry of the 42d Infantry Division, relieved of "T" Force duty in MUNICH, joined the division in its sector. The division secured and policed the sector assigned it in Operations Instructions No. 195 XV Corps.

b. The 86th Infantry Division, less one company, moved to the area assigned it in Operations Instructions No. 195 XV Corps. One reinforced company of the 343d Infantry was enroute, as the period closed, to investigate a reported force of SS Troops, supported by one tank, in ALT OTTING (Z6670).

c. The 20th Armored Division maintained its vehicles and equipment and at the end of the period was moving to cover the sector assigned it in Operations Instructions No. 195 XV Corps.

d. The 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron 106th Cavalry Group moved to STROBL (V3018) and liberated without hostile action LECPOLD, King Of The Belgians, and his family. The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron occupied ST. MARGARETHAN (V0411) and VIGAUN (V0510), and maintained vehicles and equipment.

e. Dispersed units of XV Corps Artillery began to assemble in the area southwest of SALZBURG assigned in Operations Instructions No. 195 XV Corps.

f. XV Corps Engineers continued maintenance of roads and bridges in the Corps sector.

g. XII Tactical Air Command flew 12 sorties over the Corps zone early in the period, bombing and strafing motor transport on the road in the vicinity of (V408136) - (V935090). No targets were attacked later in the period because of the surrender of the German forces.

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h. Two thousand eight hundred and fifty-three prisoners were captured in the Corps sector during the period: Corps troops captured 50, the 42d Infantry Division 483, the 86th Infantry Division 500, and the 20th Armored Division 492. The 3d Infantry Division under Seventh Army control, remained in the Corps sector and captured 1328 prisoners.

8. 8 MAY 1945:

XV Corps continued to police its sector.

Operations Instructions No. 152 Seventh Army dated 8 May, directed, that the 3d Infantry Division be attached to XV Corps at 0900 8 May.

a. The 3d Infantry Division, attached to XV Corps at 0900, remained assembled in the vicinity of SALZBURG, conducted maintenance and rehabilitation program and policed its sector.

b. The 42d Infantry Division maintained its positions and patrolled and policed the area: LEONHARDSPFUNZEN (Z2929) - SCHAMBACH (Z3155) - TITTMONING (Z7452) - WAGING (Z7338).

(1) The 222d Infantry was located as follows: 1st Battalion, TYRLACHING (Z6752); 2d Battalion, OBER BUCH (Z6551); 3d Battalion, BICHELN (Z6454).

(2) The 232d Infantry was located as follows: 1st Battalion, MULHAM (Z7251); 2d Battalion DANDELBERG (Z7452); 3d Battalion near (Z365410).

(3) The 242d Infantry was located as follows: 1st Battalion OBER TACHING (Z7241); 2d Battalion, LUERHAM (Z7242); 3d Battalion, TETTELHAM (Z6939).

c. The 86th Infantry Division closed by 2000 in the area: ELSBETH (Z4058), MITTLING (Z7473) - HORING (Z9855) - LAUFEN (Z8840) - HORNDL (Z7756), and policed its sector.

(1) The 341st Infantry was bivouaced as follows: 1st Battalion HORING (Z9855); 2d Battalion, EGGEISBERG (Z9155); 3d Battalion, FELDKEIRCHEN (Z9555).

(2) The 342d Infantry was bivouaced as follows: 1st Battalion PERWANG (Z9848); 2d Battalion, SIMMERSTADT (Z9439); 3d Battalion, ALTENBERG (Z9840).

(3) The 343d Infantry was bivouaced as follows: 1st Battalion, HANDENBERG (Z9262); 2d Battalion, GILGENBERG (Z8761); 3d Battalion, STRASS (Z9063).

d. The 20th Armored Division continued to expand from its assembly area and by the end of the period covered the sector assigned it by Operations Instructions No. 195 XV Corps.

(1) CCA remained in its assembly area in the vicinity of FRIEDOLPING (Z7945).

(2) CCB moved to occupy the portion of the division sector west of CHEIM SEE and assembled in the vicinity of (Z442300).

(3) CCR moved to the vicinity of TEISENDT (Z8029).

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), After Action Rpt for 1- 10 May 45, Cont'd.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group outposted towns in its assigned sector.

(1) Elements of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron guarded King Leopold of BELGIUM at STROBL (V3018) and the remainder of the squadron outposted SCHWARTZENBACH (V3119), GSCHWAND (V2520), and FUCHL (V1626).

(2) The 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron outposted KUCHL (V0606), ST MARGARETHEN (V0411), and VIGAUN (V0510).

f. XV Corps Artillery closed in the area southwest of SALZBURG and policed its sector assigned by Operations Instructions No. 195 XV Corps.

g. XV Corps Engineers completed a 190 foot timber trestle bridge at (Z570262) and a 25 foot timber trestle bridge at (V156256).

h. XII Tactical Air Command maintained fighter-bomber cover over XV Corps sector during the period.

i. Two thousand five hundred and four prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: the 3d Infantry Division 1646, the 42d Infantry Division 461, the 86th Infantry Division 200, and the 20th Armored Division 197.

9. 9 MAY 1945:

The war in EUROPE ended at 0001, 9 May. XV Corps maintained security of its assigned zone and units conducted a program of rehabilitation and maintenance.

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued to police its sector. All units remained in their positions of the previous period.

b. The 42d Infantry Division maintained motorized patrols and road blocks in its sector. Elements remained in the positions of the previous period.

c. The 86th Infantry Division maintained the security of its assigned sector. Elements remained in the location of the previous period.

d. The 20th Armored Division continued to police its sector and conducted a program of rehabilitation and maintenance.

e. The 106th Cavalry Group in the vicinity of ST WOLFGANG (V2720) maintained its vehicles.

f. XV Corps Artillery policed its assigned sector.

g. XV Corps Engineers maintained roads and bridges in the Corps sector.

h. XII Tactical Air Command maintained fighter-bomber patrols over the Corps sector.

i. Five thousand eight hundred and twenty-five prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 2, the 3d Infantry Division 1898, the 42d Infantry Division 1298, the 86th Infantry Division 2600, the 20th Armored Division 27.

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10. 10 MAY 1945:

The 42d Infantry Division prepared to relieve elements of VI Corps (36th Infantry Division) while other XV Corps units continued to patrol and police the Corps sector.

Operations Instructions No. 153 Seventh Army, dated 10 May, announced as the boundary, effective 1800, 11 May, between XV Corps and VI Corps, the line: GRUNBACH (Z1879) - MIESBACH (Z1727) - JENBACH (E1473), to VI Corps, SALLMUNNS-KIRCHEN (Z2576) - EGHARTING (Z1851) - AURACH (Z2319) - RIED (E2263), to XV Corps, and directed, in substance, that:

The 101st Airborne Division be attached to XV Corps at 1800, 11 May; that XV Corps assume command of its assigned sector at 1800, 11 May, enforce the terms of surrender and occupy its sector as far south as the SALZACH - ENNS River line, establish a prohibited frontier zone along the GERMAN-AUSTRIAN frontier in its sector, prepare, on Army order, to occupy the remainder of its sector in AUSTRIA, and prepare to move the 86th Infantry Division to the MANNHEIM area on Seventh Army order. (17)

Operations Instructions No. 198 XV Corps, dated 2300, 10 May announced the Corps boundaries in accordance with Operations Instructions No. 153 Seventh Army, and directed in substance that commanders were responsible in their sectors for:

- (1) Establishment of security of occupied towns,
- (2) Protection supply installations,
- (3) Security of supply routes and lines of communication,
- (4) Guarding and disposition of captured enemy material and supplies,
- (5) Establishment of circulation patrols to control civilian traffic,
- (6) Establishment of frontier controls along the AUSTRO-GERMAN Border,
- (7) Support of Military Government,
- (8) Disciplinary control of all allied troops in their respective sectors, and further directed, in substance, that:

The 3d Infantry Division advance in its zone early 11 May to the line SALZACH River - ENNS River, contact elements of the British Eighth Army at RADSTADT (Z3182), and secure and police the area: MOND SEE (V2230) - NIEDER TRUMER SEE (V0246) - SALZBURG (Z9726) - SALZACH River - ENNS River;

The 101st Airborne Division, attached to XV Corps 1800, 11 May, secure and police the area: BERNHAUPTEN (Z6325) - BERCHTESGADEN (Z9506) - SALZACH River;

The 42d Infantry Division relieve the 36th Infantry Division and at 1800, 11 May, assume command of the area: GRUB (Z1220) - ROTTAU (Z5021) - SALZACH River;

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Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), After Action Rpt for 1 - 10 May 45, Cont'd.

The 86th Infantry Division continue its present missions, prepared, on Corps order, to move to the MANNHEIM area;

The 20th Armored Division secure and police the area: EBERSBERGER FORST (Z1056) - BAD AIBLING (Z1937) - CHEIM SEE (Z5030) - WAGNER SEE (Z7539) - TITTMONING (Z7452) and prepare on Corps order to occupy the sector of the 86th Infantry Division;

The 106th Cavalry Group advance early 11 May, contact elements of Third Army and secure and police the area: FUSCHL SEE (V1427) - GOISERN (V4110). (15)

Operations Instructions No. 196 XV Corps, dated 1330, 10 May, directed, in substance, that:

Commanders establish circulation controls within the sectors assigned in Operations Instructions No. 195 XV Corps to prevent civilians from traveling more than six kilometers from their residence unless such travel was authorized by military government authorities;

Commanders establish frontier controls along the AUSTRO-GERMAN border, post Military Government Law No. 161 with the "prohibited frontier zone" defined as the SAALACH and SALZACH River and halt unauthorized civilian travel;

Commanders were responsible for the control and care of displaced persons within the sectors assigned in Operations Instructions No. 195 XV Corps, (16)

a. The 3d Infantry Division continued to police its sector and carried on a program of rehabilitation and maintenance. All units remained in their locations of the previous period.

b. The 42d Infantry Division late in the period was preparing to move to KITZBUHEL (Z5182).

c. The 86th Infantry Division policed its assigned sector. Units remained in their locations of the previous period.

d. The 20th Armored Division continued, from its positions of the previous period, to police its assigned sector.

e. Troop "B" 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron 106th Cavalry Group escorted an Allied Peace Commission to German Army Group "G" headquarters. The remainder of the Group performed maintenance on its vehicles in its positions of the previous period.

f. XV Corps Artillery continued to police its assigned sector.

g. XV Corps Engineers continued to maintain roads and bridges in the Corps sector.

h. XII Tactical Air Command maintained fighter-bomber patrols over the Corps sector during the period.

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i. Eleven thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine prisoners were captured in the Corps zone during the period: Corps troops captured 0, the 3d Infantry Division 4391, the 42d Infantry Division 6700, the 86th Infantry Division 500, and the 20th Armored Division 248.

SECTION III

SUMMARY

1 - 10 MAY 1945

1. During the early part of the period, XV Corps continued its advance toward SAIZBURG. After the 106th Cavalry Group (attached to the 3d Infantry Division) had captured that town, Seventh Army issued orders to halt all forward movement and to assume defensive positions, in anticipation of the surrender of German Army Group "G". Army Group "G" capitulated unconditionally at 1200, 6 May. The war in Europe ended at 0001, 9 May. During the remainder of the period, XV Corps maintained the security of its assigned areas, and units of the Corps conducted rehabilitation, maintenance and training programs, and prepared to receive the surrendered German forces.

2. During the ten day period, XV Corps destroyed six enemy tanks and one self-propelled artillery gun making a cumulative total of 978 tanks and 93 self-propelled artillery pieces destroyed since 31 July 1944, when the Corps first went into action.

3. XV Corps was faced during the first five days of May by elements of the following enemy divisions: 2d Mountain Division, 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, 38th SS Division, 79th, 212th and 352d Infantry Division, Division VON HOBE, and the 9th Hungarian Infantry Division. Large scale surrenders by units of all types rendered it impossible to estimate enemy strengths or total enemy casualties. Enemy forces captured during the period exclusive of German Army Group "G", totalled 158,000.

4. The problems facing XV Corps at the end of the war in Europe were: (1) to disarm German troops in the Corps zone and to move them to a central location to be discharged; (2) to care for and assist in the repatriation of displaced persons in the Corps zone; (3) to shift tactical boundaries of United States units within the Corps to coincide with political boundaries, and (4) to depose Nazi government officials and establish military governmental authority.

SECTION IV

GENERAL SUMMARY

31 JULY 1944 - 11 MAY 1945

1. The XV Corps landed in France on 10 July 1944, and became operational on 31 July 1944. Initially attached to the Third US Army for operations, the Corps exploited the breakthrough at AVRANCHES leading the Third Army in an attack to the East. The Corps forced crossings over the MAYENNE River, capturing LAVAL and MAYENNE on 6 August, and LE MANS on 8 AUGUST, an advance of

Ltr, Hq XV Corps, AG 314.7 (G), After Action Rpt for 1 - 10 May 45, Cont'd.

approximately one hundred miles in eight days. Then, changing direction to the north, the Corps advanced to capture ALLENCON and to reach ARGENTAN, thus forming the southern front of the FALAISE Gap. With this operation an insured success, the Corps on 15 August advanced east to capture DREUX, changed direction again to the north to reach the SEINE River, where it crossed elements at MANTES-GASSICOURT on 19 August, to establish the first Allied bridgehead across the SEINE. Part of the Corps meanwhile swung north along the SEINE reaching the bend directly east of LOUVIERS on 24 August, thus completing the operation which cut off and sealed the fate of the German Seventh Army west of the SEINE. From 24 August to 29 August, the Corps was attached to First US Army, during which time it attacked and enlarged its bridgehead.

2. Reverting to Third Army control on 29 August, the Corps advanced across France on the right flank of that Army during September, crossing successively, the MARNE, the MEUSE, and the MOSELLE Rivers, and changing direction to the northeast toward LUNEVILLE. On 10 September, contact was made by right flank elements of the Corps with the Seventh US Army at SOMBERNON, west of DIJON. On 28 September, the XV Corps passed from control of the Third US Army to the Seventh US Army in the LUNEVILLE area.

3. In November the Corps smashed through the VOSGES Mountains in the vicinity of the SAVERNE Gap and was the first American or Allied Corps to reach the RHINE River, when it captured STRASBOURG on 23 November. This was the first time in history that a military force had been able to break through the line of the VOSGES.

4. In December, the Corps was ordered on the defensive west of the VOSGES Mountains in order to release many divisions for operations against the German Ardennes Offensive. In early January, the Corps successfully repulsed the strong German thrust west of the VOSGES.

5. In the center of the Seventh Army, the Corps attacked on 15 March and broke through the SIEGFRIED LINE, turned east through the PALATINATE and crossed the RHINE on the 26th of March. Then began a succession of river crossings - the MAIN (four times), the DANUBE on the 26th of April, the ISAR, the INN, and finally the SALZACH, where the Corps crossed into AUSTRIA. East of the RHINE, the Corps had captured the important cities of MANNHEIM, ISCHLATTENBURG, BALBERG, NURNBERG, MUNICH, and SALZBURG, as well as the village of BERCHTESGADEN.

6. Any plans the enemy may have entertained for holding out in the REDOUBT were quickly crased when the XV Corps struck south and southeast from MUNICH, quickly exploiting the INN River Valley and terminating its advance at SALZBURG and BERCHTESGADEN, AUSTRIA -- 1200 miles from AVRANCHES.

7. During the period of more than nine months of combat, the XV Corps at one time or another had in it a total of twenty-six divisions, nearly half of the American divisions in the theater. Of these, fifteen were infantry, eight were armored (including the 2d French Armored Division) and one was airborne. (See Table No. 1)

8. Although it is difficult to classify casualties as light, regardless of the total, the XV Corps, by careful planning, sound employment of troops, and the high degree of technical knowledge displayed, was able to keep casualties at a

minimum throughout its operational period. In fact, even disregarding the many thousands of Germans killed and wounded by the XV Corps, the total battle losses of the Corps (28,710) remain less than one-twelfth of the total number of German prisoners taken by the Corps (352,536). (See Table No. 2)

9. During its period of combat, the XV Corps was able to compile a total of 1066 enemy tanks or self-propelled guns destroyed or captured. (See Table No. 3)

10. Against enemy air attacks, XV Corps Antiaircraft units increased in effectiveness as the campaigns progressed. A total of 197 hostile airplanes were destroyed or damaged. (See Table No. 4)

11. Except for a period during the winter when the XV Corps was ordered on the defensive due to happenings on other parts of the front, the XV Corps was continually on the offensive, first, spearheading the advance of the Third Army across NORMANDY, later advancing on its right flank to LUNEVILLE, and then throughout its offensive operations under the Seventh Army it was the left flank Corps of the Army. Continually called upon to protect the flank of an Army and generally making the main effort of that Army, the XV Corps was nevertheless able to accomplish every mission assigned to it throughout the entire period of combat. The XV Corps crossed FRANCE, GERMANY and when victory over the German Armies had been gained on May 9th, it had crossed into AUSTRIA, an advance of 1200 miles.

12. In the course of its operations, the XV Corps crossed twenty three major rivers, four mountain ranges and made deep penetrations into the AUSTRIAN ALPS. These natural barriers were all defended by the enemy. (See Table No. 5)

13. The achievements of the XV Corps have not gone unrecognized as is indicated by letter, Headquarters Third Army, 29 September 1944, and letter, Headquarters Sixth Army Group, 10 May 1945, attached hereto as Inclosures No. 4 and No. 5.

Wade H. Haislip

WADE H. HAISLIP,
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

6 Incls:

- 1 - Table No. 1
- 2 - Table Nos. 2, 3 & 4
- 3 - Table No. 5
- 4 - Letter, Hq Third Army, 29 Sep 44.
- 5 - Letter, Hq 6th Army Gp, 10 May 44.
- 6 - Footnotes to Summary of Operations,
XV Corps 1 May - 10 May 1945.

5 Annexes

- 1 - Annex 1 (G-1 Data & Statistics)
- 2 - Annex 2 (G-2 Enemy Order of Battle)
- 3 - Annex 3 (Chief of Staff, General)
- 4 - Annex 4 (G-4 Supply, Transp, & Ev)
- 5 - Annex 5 (Military Govt Historical Data)

TABLE NO. 1

DIVISIONS ATTACHED TO XV CORPS

(For period of 31 July 1944 to 11 May 1945 Incl.)

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Date Attached</u>	<u>Date Relieved</u>
83d Infantry Division	31 July 1944	3 August 1944
90th Infantry Division	31 July 1944	15 August 1944
5th Armored Division	1 August 1944	29 August 1944
79th Infantry Division	2 August 1944	29 August 1944
	9 September 1944	15 December 1944
2d French Armored Division	9 August 1944	15 August 1944
	9 September 1944	27 November 1944
	3 January 1945	20 January 1945
	16 February 1945	3 March 1945
30th Infantry Division	26 August 1944	29 August 1944
2d Armored Division	27 August 1944	29 August 1944
44th Infantry Division	17 October 1944	17 March 1945
	27 March 1945	9 April 1945
45th Infantry Division	23 November 1944	5 December 1944
	12 March 1945	7 May 1945
100th Infantry Division	27 November 1944	21 March 1945
14th Armored Division	29 November 1944	5 December 1944
14th Armored Division (CCA Only)	29 December 1944	2 January 1945
14th Armored Division	1 April 1945	23 April 1945
12th Armored Division	4 December 1944	27 December 1944
	29 December 1944	6 January 1945
	11 February 1945	28 February 1945
	26 March 1945	31 March 1945
87th Infantry Division	21 December 1944	26 December 1944
103d Infantry Division	21 December 1944	13 January 1945
36th Infantry Division	29 December 1944	18 January 1945
63d Infantry Division (Task Force Harris Only)	30 December 1944	(Dissolved 4 January 1945)
63d Infantry Division	4 February 1945	28 February 1945
	22 March 1945	25 March 1945
10th Armored Division (CCB Only)	21 January 1945	24 January 1945
10th Armored Division	25 January 1945	10 February 1945
101st A/B Division	21 January 1945	15 January 1945
35th Infantry Division	23 January 1945	30 January 1945
70th Infantry Division (Task Force Herren Only)	25 January 1945	(Dissolved 4 February 1945)
70th Infantry Division	1 February 1945	28 February 1945
6th Armored Division	12 March 1945	23 March 1945
3d Infantry Division	12 March 1945	22 April 1945
	28 April 1945	6 May 1945
	8 May 1945	+11 May 1945
71st Infantry Division	12 March 1945	21 March 1945
42d Infantry Division	19 April 1945	+11 May 1945
20th Armored Division	23 April 1945	+11 May 1945
86th Infantry Division	2 May 1945	+11 May 1945

+11 May -- End of Campaign Central Europe

TABLE NO. 2

PERSONNEL

(For the period from 31 July - 11 May Incl.)

	<u>NORTHERN FRANCE</u> <u>CAMPAIGN</u> (25 Jul - 14 Sep) 1944 1945	<u>RHINELAND</u> <u>CAMPAIGN</u> (15 Sep-21 Mar) 1944 1945	<u>CENTRAL EUROPE</u> <u>CAMPAIGN</u> (22 Mar-11 May) 1945 1945	<u>TOTAL</u>
Killed	327	2943	694	3964
Missing	231	2425	46	2702
Wounded	2207	16511	3261	21979
Captured	43	20	2	65
Total	2808	21899	4003	28710

Prisoners Captured	15177	34932	302427	352536 *
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*The totals do not include units formally surrendered after the cessation of hostilities, 9 May.

TABLE NO. 3 ENEMY TANKS SELF-PROPELLED GUNS DESTROYED OR CAPTURED
(For the period from 31 July - 11 May, Incl.)

	<u>NORTHERN FRANCE</u> <u>CAMPAIGN</u>	<u>RHINELAND</u> <u>CAMPAIGN</u>	<u>CENTRAL EUROPE</u> <u>CAMPAIGN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Tanks	541	319	113	973
Self-Propelled Guns	19	38	36	93
Total	560	357	149	1066

TABLE NO. 4 ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED
(For the period from 31 July - 11 May, Incl.)

	<u>NORTHERN FRANCE</u> <u>CAMPAIGN</u>	<u>RHINELAND</u> <u>CAMPAIGN</u>	<u>CENTRAL EUROPE</u> <u>CAMPAIGN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Category I	95	22	32	149
Category II	26	11	11	48
Total	121	33	43	197

Incl. No. 2

RESTRICTED

TABLE NO. 5

MAJOR RIVERS CROSSED BY XV CORPS

Mayenne	Mourthe	Altmühl
Sarthe	Vezouse	Donube
Orne	Scar	Loch
Eure	Moder	Amper
Seine	Rhine	Isar
Marne	Main (4 times)	Inn
Meuse	Pegnitz	Salzach
Moselle	Regnitz	

MOUNTAIN RANGES CROSSED BY XV CORPS

Vosges Hardt Mountins Hohe Rhone Franconian Mountains

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General
APO 403

29 September 1944

My dear General Haislip:

My regret at losing you and your command is only equalled by my profound appreciation for and admiration of your magnificent achievements and the superior manner in which, often with inadequate means, you have invariably defeated the enemy.

Please communicate these sentiments to all officers and men of your command and especially to Generals Wyche and McClerc and to Colonel Vennard Wilson.

May the success you have so richly merited continue to attend you, and may the 7th Army profit as much from your valorous deeds as we have.

Most sincerely,

/s/ G. S. Patton, Jr.
/t/ G. S. PATTON, JR.,
Licut. General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

Incl. No. 4

HEADQUARTERS
SIXTH ARMY GROUP
Office of the Commanding General
APO 23

10 May 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, XV Corps, APO 436, U. S. Army.

THRU : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, U. S. Army.

In the glorious victory which we have just won, you and the officers and men of your Corps may well be proud of your great records as part of the 6th Army Group. As spearhead in many of Seventh Army's drives, you have borne the brunt of the attack, and the impressive successes of that Army bear witness to the effectiveness of your efforts. Your country has every reason to name the XV Corps among its military greats.

You joined my command at the time when an attack through the treacherous Parroy Forest in Northern Alsace was underway. After swiftly clearing this area, your forces composed the main effort of the Seventh Army to break through the naturally strong line of the Vosges to the Rhine. By a series of bold maneuvers, the Saverne Gap was breached and Strasbourg was taken in a breathtaking dash to the Rhine. You then turned north to the Siegfried Line and were proceeding against the German border when the Ardennes Offensive forced a halt on your front. In late December and early January, you were required to hold a greatly extended line against determined enemy attacks, but your troops repulsed every thrust.

When on the entire Western Front an offensive was launched early this spring, you Corps once again headed the advance of the Seventh Army. Reaching the Siegfried Line, after bitter fighting you took Zweibrucken and Saarbrucken and broke through to the Rhine. This fabulous river, once considered an important military barrier, proved no obstacle to your troops. Precise planning and perfect execution made possible a successful assault on 26 March 1945, as you plunged across with almost no pause.

In your drive deep into Germany, Aschaffenburg and Nurnberg were encircled and captured. Munich, one of the most sacred of German cities to the Nazis, was assaulted and seized in a decisive action. Several days later Salzburg fell to your troops, as they entered Austria and broke the last remnants of German resistance before you.

In our hour of triumph, I salute you and the officers and men of the XV Corps. Your spectacular deeds, exemplifying the courage and resolution of the American soldier, give your country, as well as yourself, the greatest of pride and satisfaction. That the XV Corps was part of my command in the struggle now ended always will be a source of deep inspiration to me.

s/s/ JACOB L. DEVERS,
/t/ JACOB L. DEVERS,
General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FOOTNOTES

<u>Foot Note No.</u>	<u>May Journal Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>
1	1	Operations Instructions No. 147 Seventh Army dated 1 May
2	1	Operations Instructions No. 191 XV Corps dated 1 May
3	2	Operations Instructions No. 192 XV Corps dated 2 May
4	2	Operations Instructions No. 149 Seventh Army dated 2 May
5	3	Field Message from the CG XV Corps to CG 86th Infantry Division
6	5	Telephone Conversation between CofS and XXI Corps dated 5 May
7	4	Telephone message from CofS XV Corps to CofS 3d Infantry Division dated 4 May
8	4	Operations Instructions No. 193 XV Corps dated 4 May
9	6	Operations Instructions No. 151 Seventh Army dated 5 May
10	5	Field message from CG XV Corps to all units dated 5 May
11	6	Field message from CG XV Corps to the CO 106th Cavalry Group dated 6 May
12	6	Operations Instructions No. 194 XV Corps dated 6 May
13	7	Operations Instructions No. 195 XV Corps dated 7 May
14	7	Message from SHAEF to CG XV Corps
15	11	Operations Instructions No. 198 XV Corps dated 10 May
16	10	Operations Instructions No. 196 XV Corps dated 10 May
17	10	Operations Instructions No. 153 Seventh Army dated 10 May

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